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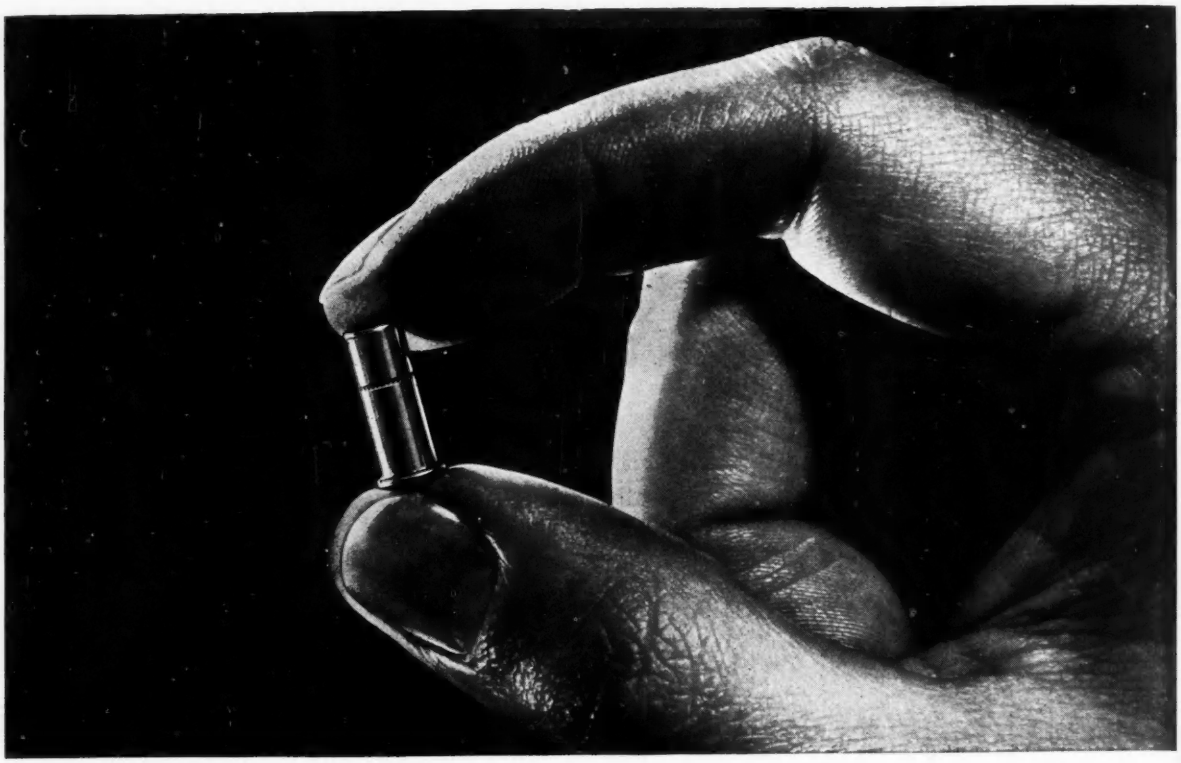

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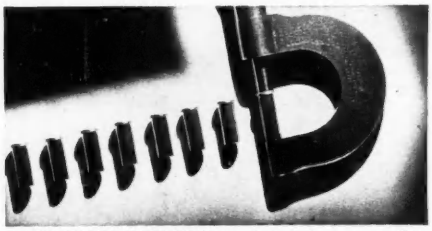

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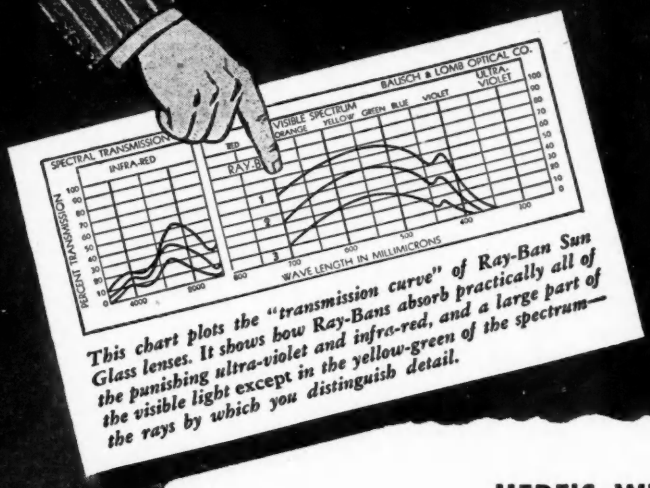

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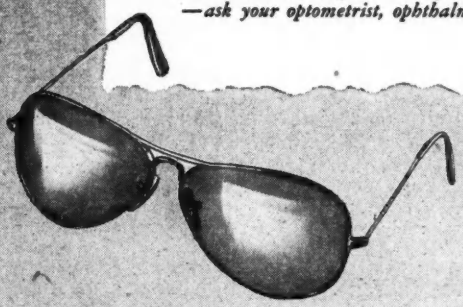

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★ *THIS MONTH*

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By Townsend Whelen

Design, Construction and Operation

This book covers the entire field of modern small arms and ammunition. Replete with technical data, it is devoid of higher mathematics and the subject is covered in a manner that permits the layman to grasp and apply solutions to his problems. Besides covering the construction; design and operation of small arms, including rifles, pistols, revolvers, shotguns and submachine guns, Volume I also gives minute technical details of cartridges, and ammunition components. This concise, authentic information constitutes a most liberal education for any shooter and it is presented in a manner that permits absorbing and utilizing it in practical application to everyday shooting problems.

Interior and Exterior Ballistics

Just what happens from the time the trigger is let off until the bullet strikes the target is graphically depicted in Volume II. It differs from other textbooks on small arms ballistics in that the subject is treated in language the average reader can understand, rather than in cold, erudite terms and a maze of advanced mathematics. Complete in itself, this work presents explanations and studies relative to pressure, velocity, combustion, recoil, jump, vibration, flight of bullet, air resistance, force of gravity, yaw, drift, trajectory, accuracy, killing power, testing methods, bench and machine rests, care, cleaning and storage of material and methods of computing and keeping proper records.

★ *LAST MONTH*

TWENTY-TWO CALIBER VARMINT RIFLES

By Charles S. Landis

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★ NEXT MONTH—*Modern American Rifles, By A. C. Gould*

RIFLEMAN WORDS . . .

Each month this "lexicon for shooters" is devoted to a few words peculiar to the shooting game which are puzzling to the newcomer. All words defined here are used in a current article.

BORE—The cylindrical hole through the barrel of a gun, through which the bullet passes. The bore diameter is measured from the top of one land to the top of the opposite one. In other words, it is the diameter before the rifling is cut.

BREECH BLOCK—The movable block against which the cartridge rests in firing.

CORDITE—A type of gun powder in the shape of long strings or cords, hence the name. It consists essentially of guncotton dissolved in nitroglycerin.

DRAM—A unit of weight. There are 256 drams in one pound avoirdupois. A three dram weight of black powder was once the standard shotgun charge and was equivalent to 82 grains. The first smokeless powder to come into use for shotgun loads could be measured bulk for bulk with black powder, though the actual weight might be different. Dense smokeless powder cannot be measured in this way but must be weighed. The load which gives the same effect as three drams of black powder may still be called a three dram load, though it may actually weigh only half as much.

OPEN SIGHT—A rear sight whose aiming point is V- or U-shaped rather than the enclosed circle or O shape which is characteristic of the aperture or "peep" sight.

COMB—That part of a rifle stock directly back of and above the grip upon which the cheek rests while firing the gun.

BEAVERTAIL FORE-END—A rifle stock fore-end whose cross section is wider than it is deep.

VERNIER REAR PEEP SIGHT—A rear sight on a rifle having vernier adjustments for windage and elevation, and an aperture through which to sight. A vernier is a small movable auxiliary scale for measuring fractional parts of a larger scale. These sights are customarily mounted back, close to the eye.

DOUBLE-SET TRIGGER—A unit of two triggers on a rifle, one just forward of the other. By pulling one trigger, usually the rear, the other is "set" on a very fine sear. Then an extremely light touch on the second trigger is all that is required to fire the rifle.

ROLLING-BLOCK—A type of single-shot action whose breech is opened by a lever which tips the breech block back in a rolling motion.

DUPLEX-LOAD—A laminated powder charge using two or more powders of different burning rates. The slower powder is ignited first and the faster powder starts to burn after the bullet is on its way down the bore.

THROAT—On a rifle the throat is the lead into the bore, just forward of the chamber where the bullet is customarily seated.

BREECH-SEATED—Before the development of the metallic cartridge case, bullets and powder were loaded in a rifle separately. A breech-seated bullet (the converse of a muzzle-loaded one) was set in the breech first, and the paper- or cloth-wrapped powder charge put in afterward.

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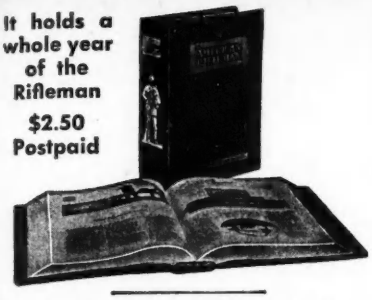

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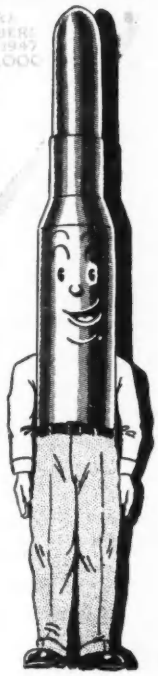
Long Live NRA's Life Line

THE line running through this ad is the life line of the N.R.A. It represents the memberships, the interest, the support of many thousands of U. S. Sportsmen citizens—nearly a quarter million of them—whose bond is the love of a gun.

To each member of the Association this N.R.A. growth—this N.R.A. life line—means a much larger magazine, currently 96 pages instead of 64 pages last February. . . . New Services, including six new Field Offices added last year for the benefit of members and member clubs. The N.R.A. life line also traces the Association's greatly increased prestige. This is especially important in view of the widespread campaign to outlaw guns and the need for a strong organization of honest gun-owning Americans to fight the shooter's battles for him.

Yes, every N.R.A. member, every RIFLEMAN subscriber, benefits from this increased N.R.A. membership circulation. That is why we say: Long live N.R.A.'s Life Line. Think shooting, talk shooting, sell shooting throughout 1947!



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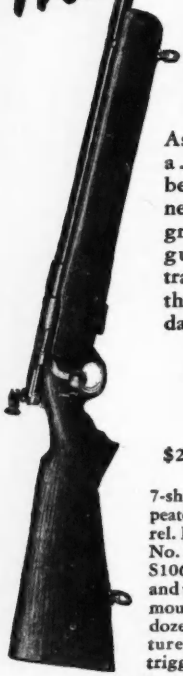

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Incidentally . . .

We're finding out that if you want to start a real, down-to-earth argument, just let some writer pop off about his pet gun. That's what we did by publishing "One Man's Meat," in the November issue . . . an eulogy of the .300 Magnum. That's what we expect to do (start another argument) by publishing this time, "Everyman's Deer Rifle." But lest you take these "best gun" articles too seriously we hasten to add . . . they're all a part of a series. We've asked various of our writers whom we know to have special preferences in calibers, to tell us why they have arrived at those preferences. We've felt this is one way of covering the more popular types. . . . As the good points are brought out, you can pick and choose, or leave them alone. But it does occur to us frequently that perhaps our RIFLEMAN articles deal so much with the "wildcats," the super-dupers, the make-it-yourself, or the near obsolete and antiques, that the more standard and popular guns are neglected. Again, thinking of those many new readers not too well acquainted as yet with THE RIFLEMAN field generally, we want to review that field. For the old-timers . . . well, we're finding out they rise to an argument like a trout to a fly. And that's half the fun of this game . . . for you and your bull sessions, or for us in editing.

After all, a man has a right to his own opinion, and in this case of the "my-pet-gun" series, those opinions get aired in THE RIFLEMAN.

☆ ☆ ☆

Out of "opinions" oftentimes comes some of our best articles . . . the development of some of our best writers. Take the case of Gerry Averill. He had two pet arguments . . . the .30-'06 Springfield as a sporter gave him all he ever needed in his wide ranging afield, and that standard "bought" ammunition was good enough for him. He had little time for the special loads . . . ("the only efficient handload ever developed and used by me consisted of about four drams of black powder . . . behind seven cast-iron sleigh-bell clappers. This charge, carefully segregated by wads of the best felt cut from an old pair of larrigans proved to be, in the words of the vernacular, 'the berries' ").

It was "homespun" like that that made Gerry's writings a real contribution to outdoor literature. His correspondence with your editors was just as colorful. But all that is now shut off. Gerry Averill, the logger, World War I Sergeant, game warden, and colorful portrayer of the North Woods, died at his home in Winterport, Maine, December 5, after a long illness. His passing leaves a void in those RIFLEMAN manuscript files that cannot be filled. No longer can we reach into that file for an entertaining story from a pen dipped deep in the experiences of the great outdoors. Gerald Averill was one of our most popular writers. His first writings appeared in THE RIFLEMAN and we always considered him one of our real "finds." His "Back Tracking" series of some years ago brought color and common gun sense out of the North Woods. By way of many fond recollections we're reprinting one part of the series in this issue. "Ruminations of a Ridge-Runner" is another prewar article which found a sequel in "The Ridge-Runner Reflects," of the February, 1946, issue. It will be difficult to duplicate that "homespun" gun lore . . .

☆ ☆ ☆

We first met Gerry on a pistol range at Springfield, Mass. He was shooting as a member of the Maine Conservation team, and was having plenty of trouble . . . but he was learning. He was learning the difference between the set conditions of a pistol match and the fleeting live targets of his logging days. His more familiar style, as he wrote in one of his articles . . . "I planked the seat of my pants down in the dirt, and took the little gun in both hands between my knees." That's when he "needed something" to put in his stomach. He never became a great competitor in those formal matches. But he was always a great story teller. And it was those stories woven around a technical point or two that gave us a delightful change of pace in THE RIFLEMAN. This column takes occasion to pay tribute to a personal friend, a great outdoorsman, and a Master recorder of that outdoors he loved.—W. F. S.

COVER

Harry Reeves was photographed in his home in Detroit by Frank Lyerla, a commercial photographer hired by Ray Stann when he was out there getting the lead story for this issue. Ray says he was so busy interviewing Harry ("I stayed with him for four days and nights") that he failed to get the exposure time and lens opening from Lyerla.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, WASHINGTON 6, D. C. DOMESTIC RATES (NORTH, SOUTH, AND CENTRAL AMERICA) $3.00 A YEAR; $5.00 FOR TWO YEARS, ELSEWHERE, $3.50 A YEAR; $6.50 FOR TWO YEARS. ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER, APRIL 1, 1908, AT THE POST OFFICE AT WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.

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The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

VOLUME 95 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1947

A Gun-Shy Texan
AN EDITORIAL

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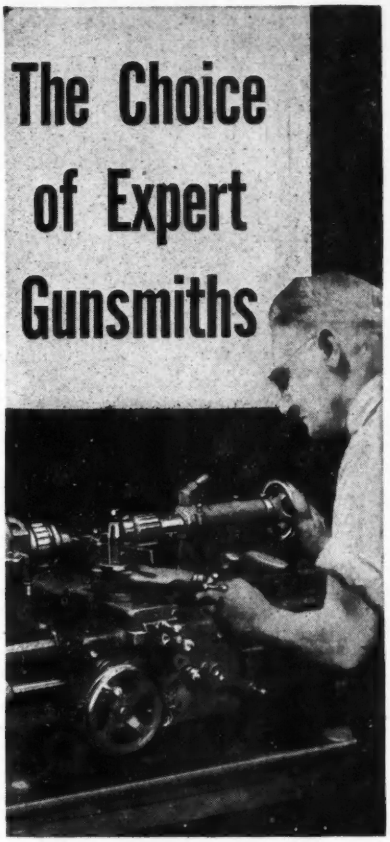

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A Gun-Shy Texan

FROM the sweltering Alamo to the freezing Rapido the men of Texas have proven their fierce love of independence. Their faith in their weapons and their ability to use them has been nurtured from father to son. Generations of Texas women have known that steel in a gun barrel was no more to be feared than steel in a kitchen knife—the thing that you needed to worry about was raising your children right and minding your own business.

Texans remember that when the first War Powers Act was debated in Congress, aiming to give the President of the United States and his agents the power to register and requisition anything that *they* thought might be helpful in winning the war, it was Paul J. Kilday, Congressman from San Antonio, who led the fight to exempt personally owned sporting arms.

But now there is a puzzled shaking of heads from the Red to the Rio Grande. Roughnecks around their oil rigs, cow hands in their bunk houses, citrus growers in their groves are embarrassed and chagrined. At long last a gun-shy Texan has been found!

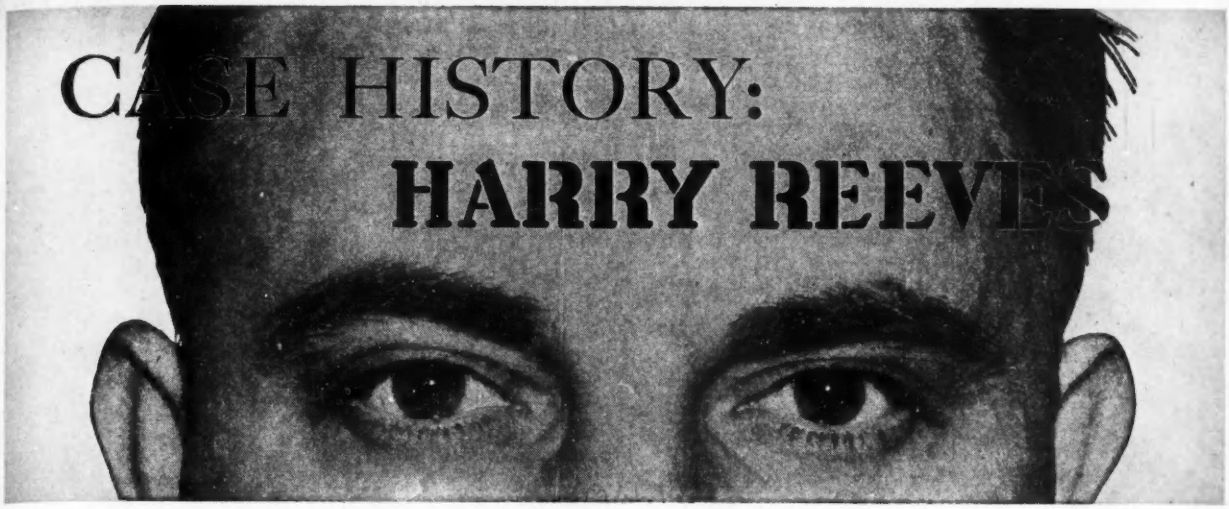
Tom Clark, the Texas boy whose father sent him to that great school for citizen-soldiers, V. M. I., the school of "Stonewall" Jackson and George Marshall—Tom Clark, who did not take up soldiering but turned to the law instead and came eventually to be Attorney General of the United States—Tom has called in the newspapermen and announced that he is gun-shy!

Probably nobody in Texas would have cared very much about Tom Clark's being gun-shy if he had just gone on politicking and chasing Big Business one way, then chasing Big Labor the other way. But everybody in Texas had known for a long time that there was a little bunch of termites in the Department of Justice in Washington who had been trying to get honest Americans' guns away from them since about the time Tom had supposedly been learning something about guns on the range at V. M. I. Three times during the long Democratic summer in Washington Congress had gone over the same old ground and had come up with the same answer—"The reputable American is entitled to own all the guns he wants, excepting machine guns and sawed-off rifles and shotguns, without having to ask the permission of any Federal bureaucrat." To Texans that doctrine made sense. Now the termites, who wanted to put over a Fascist law while shouting "Beware the Communists" (there being no difference between the two anyhow, as far as individual freedom is concerned!), had sold Tom Clark a bill of goods which not only called everybody's attention to the fact that he was a gun-shy son of Texas but he was A DEMOCRATIC ATTORNEY GENERAL ASKING A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS TO DO WHAT HIS OWN PARTY HAD THRICE REFUSED TO DO!

Up until now the Republican Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, big, bluff, good-natured Harold Knutson, who comes from a state which, man for man, is just about as much a hunting, target-shooting state as is Texas, has done nothing about introducing a bill to carry out Tom Clark's request. One of the things which right now interests Congressman Knutson to a much greater extent than the question, "Who has a deer rifle?" is the question, "How can we get rid of a lot of these people who are hanging on to Government jobs and eating up taxes when they ought to be out working for themselves and paying taxes?"

Yankees shouldn't chuckle too soon, however, over the embarrassment of the folks in the Lone Star State. Take the Buckeye State for instance. Out in the Sixteenth Ohio District a lot of shooters voted last November for a Republican named Henderson A. Carson. Those shooters' votes helped Mr. Carson to take his seat in the 80th Congress on January fourth. On January fourteenth freshman Congressman Carson introduced House Bill 1061 to require the registration of all privately owned firearms such as might be from time to time designated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Freshman Carson probably does not know that there are more shooters in Ohio than there are in Texas, but from all reports the new Republican from Canton will soon be acutely aware of the number of eyes that have been turned in his direction. Life can be tough in Washington these days—even for a Republican!

Life in Washington can be embarrassing, too—when all those gun-loving Texas eyes turn upon a gun-shy Texan!—C. B. L.



CASE HISTORY: HARRY REEVES

By RAY STANN

A STAFF MEMBER TAKES THE AMERICAN HANDGUN CHAMPION APART TO SEE WHAT MAKES HIM TICK . . . AND KEEP HIS CROWN

IF YOU WANT TO BE the world's greatest pistol shooter you should weigh an even 200 pounds, stand five feet ten-and-a-half . . . and then not give a damn.

But, before you put yourself on a strict diet of starches and fats or try to turn under some more for feet, let's make something clear right now. While the above represents the basic physical dimensions and temperament of one Harry W. Reeves, who probably is the world's greatest pistol shooter, Harry, himself, will be the first to admit that mere possession of a modified beer-barrel physique is not enough to stamp a guy automatically as the next National Pistol Champ—not without his popping a few practice primers in the meantime, that is, and conforming to a few other requisites.

Harry Reeves, as you will see, is a man with more than a few theories on this target handgun business—theories which, you might suspect, were developed after a rather careful study of a fellow named Harry Reeves. And, one of the most unusual of these theories is that the Reeves' chassis proportions and his ingrained phlegmatism have something to do with his shooting abilities. They aren't the only important considerations in the game, of course, but they are probably the most characteristic of Harry. And, having been blessed with what may be the perfect physical and mental conformation for a target puncher, he is spared two of the more important handicaps other shooters must overcome to reach the competitive upper strata.

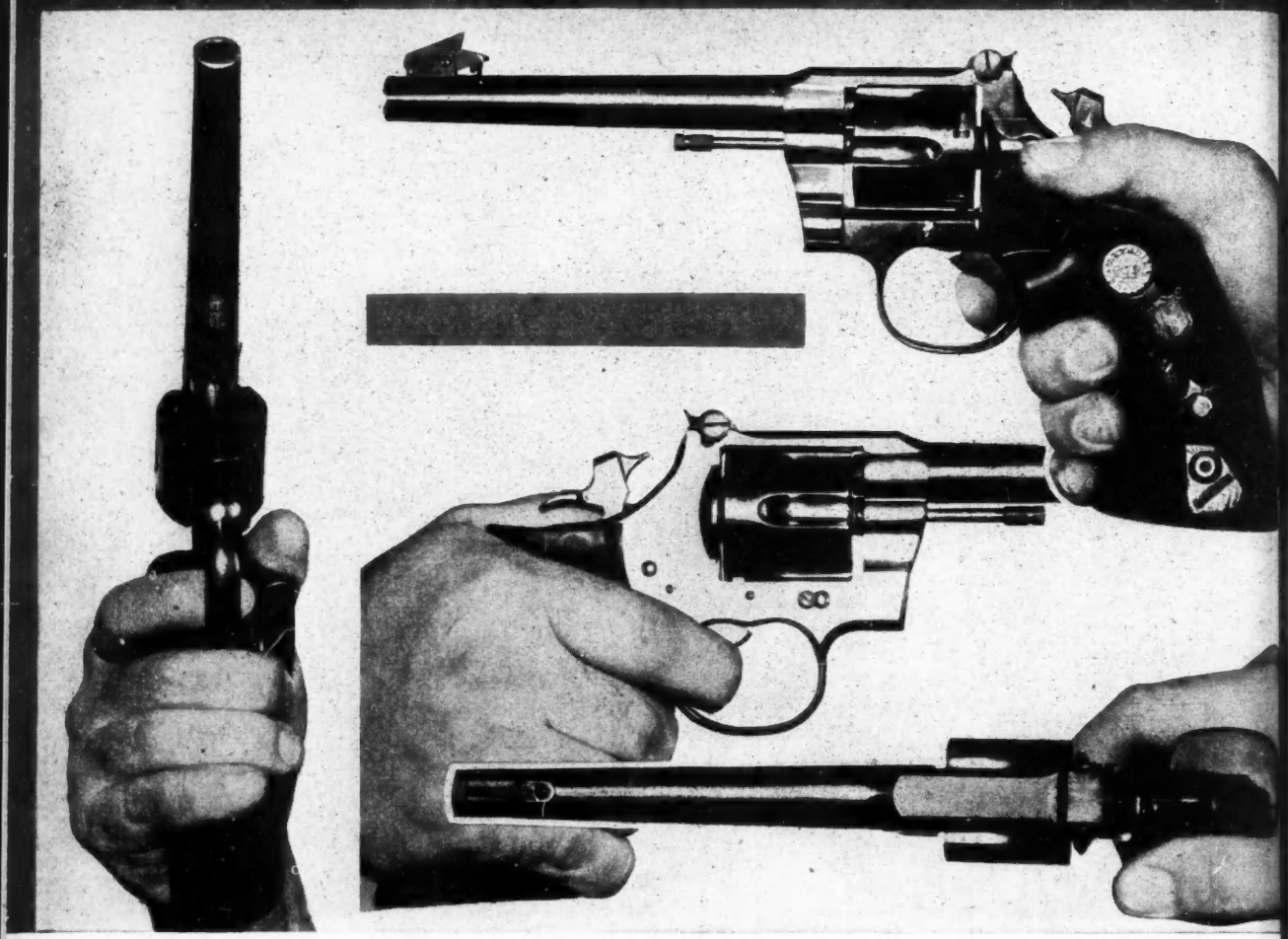
Like boxing's Joe Louis and baseball's Bob Feller, Reeves is a natural in his field. It is doubtful if he ever knew the day when he could not shoot the pistol well, as his record will show. In 1936, three years after he fired his first handgun as a Marine "boot," he won the Individual Navy Championship in *the first pistol match he ever entered*, was a member and high individual of the USS *Lexington* Pistol Team which won the Fleet Championship. In the spring of 1937 he set and later raised the Marine Corps match record over the National Match Course. Look back over the competitive career of the moon-faced Detroit policeman from that first big year to last September when he won his third consecutive National All-Around Championship, and you see a story of continuous and seemingly effortless success. (He insists, however, that actually he puts more effort than others into his shooting.) By comparison it would seem that even the magnificent records of Louis and Feller, of golf's Byron Nelson or most any other sporting champion must suffer. For whereas they can count their defeated competitors in tens or in hundreds, Reeves can number his high in the thousands. The pistol sport may well claim a Champion of Champions.

It does not necessarily follow, however, that the richly endowed Reeves can indefinitely continue this domination of his sport. He will tell you that aside from a shooter's physical and mental make-up, the mechanical aspects of shooting—and practice—are all that's left. And none of those specifications are beyond the reach of any normal shooter.

"As far as the mechanics of pistol shooting are concerned, you can teach a person all you know in fifteen minutes. If the student can assimilate the facts, he's got the hang of it right there."

So, if it is that easy, let's take this amazing guy apart piece by piece—physically, mechanically, and mentally, in that order—and see what makes him shoot.

First off, to repeat ourselves, Harry weighs an even 200



Four views of Harry Reeves' grip, which is tighter than most shooters', "just below the stage where it sets up a tremble"

pounds, is five feet ten and a half inches tall, and has just passed his thirty-sixth birthday. He has brown eyes and light brown hair, if that does you any good.

Contrary to popular belief, Harry is not a particularly keen-sighted individual. As a matter of fact, he is farsighted and wears glasses to correct that condition both in his normal life and while shooting. "However," he points out, "my corrected shooting glasses don't seem to add anything to my scores; they only keep me from getting headaches due to eyestrain."

Though he can hardly be classed as a Bernarr McFadden as regards physical conditioning, Reeves does keep himself in excellent shape. His only fear, it would seem is that of acquiring excessive weight as a result of his cavernous appetite, blame for which can be laid partly to the excellent cooking of his wife, Florence. But aside from his eating habits, the Reeves' life is relatively moderate. He does not smoke and considers *that* habit to be the most harmful of all to good shooting after weighing reports from former smokers and nonsmokers. Drinking in moderation must not be too bad; Harry will take an occasional drink—but not on the pistol range or when shooting in competition.

Mechanically, Reeves regards himself as very little different from most of the other top-flight competitors on the line and, in most ways, he agrees with the copybook style of shooting. Where he does not agree, however, he does not dispute the copybook methods; he only supplements them. This is the way Harry shoots and the way Harry teaches. If you think it can help you—try it.

Grip. Reeves grips his pistols somewhat tighter than does the average shooter. He explains it as "just below the stage where it sets up a tremble." Ask him why he holds the gun so tight and he will tell you that it is much easier to maintain a uniform grip for every shot.

"If I grip just below the tremble stage, I figure to be able to do it the same way with the same amount of tension each time I pick up a pistol. It seems important to me because I try to make my grip absolutely uniform no matter what the caliber of gun, no matter what stage of distance I am firing."

Harry, who is somewhat critical of shooters who alter their grip for each caliber of gun or to correct for changes in distance, never changes his. "In fact," he says, "the only difference there is in the way I handle any of the three guns I use is in the cocking movement of the revolver."

Trigger Pull. Reeves' guns have a heavier pull than have the average shooter's. He is only human and admits that when using a gun with a light pull, he has a tendency to flinch. So, he has his .22 auto adjusted to just under three pounds. His .38 revolver is set between three and three and one-quarter pounds,

and his .45 auto will fire at about four and one-half pounds pull.

The control of the trigger (he refuses to call it "trigger squeeze") is what Harry terms the most important *mechanical* aspect of good shooting.

In his instruction classes for police officers on the Detroit Police Range, he teaches a firm grip with the trigger movement accomplished by a straight back pull of the index finger. Steering away from the often-used method of teaching beginners to squeeze their whole hand, he instructs them to move only the index finger with the pad of the finger tip resting on the trigger. As to applying the trigger pressure, he says: "Until you are a pretty good shooter, you'd better follow the old copybook system of exerting a constant and increasing pressure on the trigger until the shot is fired. When you get to where you can shoot 280's over the National Match Course and want to get up with the real top-notchers, then you've got to make a change. I don't think that any top-notch pistol shooter is surprised when his gun goes off. He not only must know when the gun goes off, he must *make it fire* exactly when he wants it to. To do that, though, he must pull that trigger mighty fast and you just can't call that a squeeze. But experienced or inexperienced, the shooter still must operate the trigger without disturbing the aim or alignment of the gun."

If you think that sounds like Harry is recommending a trigger "jerk" for top-notch shooting, he won't exactly argue with you. He will tell you that though it isn't jerking the trigger, it is mighty close to it, but it must not move the gun.

"However, if a beginner tries it, it almost always is a jerk," he warns. "It is an advanced type of trigger control for those who have learned the fundamentals thoroughly."

Sighting. Though Reeves has been shooting the pistol in competition for ten years now, he never has been able to develop a master eye. Unlike most copybook instructions, he aims with his right eye and closes his left.

"I don't believe everyone can shoot with both eyes open because not everyone has or can develop a master eye. But that doesn't apply to all types of shooting necessarily," Reeves will add. "For my quick-draw and aerial shooting and in the hunting field, I always shoot with both eyes open, but there the aim is not as deliberate or as accurate as in target shooting."

The ex-Marine major contends that getting sharp definition of the sights is far more important than sharp definition of the target. In his own shooting he focuses on his sights.

"I still seem to be able to get my scores even though the bullseye is blurred. It seems to me that too many shooters concentrate on the bullseye and neglect the sights—and you can realize how much neglect of sight alignment can throw you off."

Point of Aim. Harry sights in his pistols for *center hold* at fifty yards. Thus, at the twenty-five yard stages he needs only to lower his aim to where the front sight is just in to the bottom of the bull to get correct hits at that distance.

"I've tried out other systems and find it easiest this way," he explains, adding that what he considers to be about the worst practice of all is that of changing the grip or even the load to correct for changes in distance.

Positions. "Don't copy anyone's position," is one of the most solemn warnings the champion will issue to beginning shooters.

"If the shooter's body does not conform to the pattern he is trying to copy, that shooter has placed himself under a severe handicap before he fires a shot."

In this respect Harry is strictly copybook—"The main point in selecting a position is that no muscles should be under tension." He cites only one general rule for the selection of the best possible stance, but accents the *general*. It is that heavy shooters usually can face the target more than light or thin shooters to eliminate muscle strain and give them better stability.

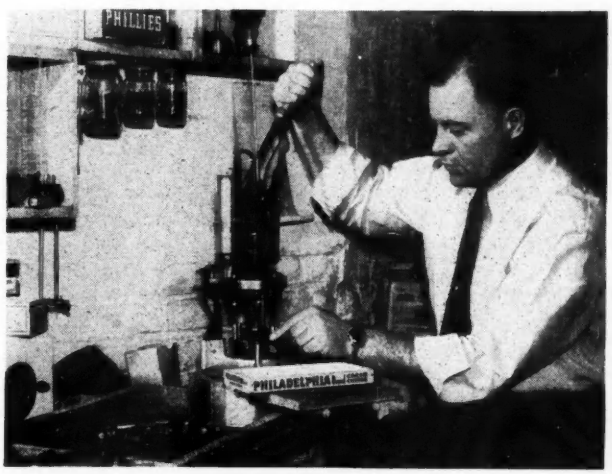
You wouldn't know it to watch Reeves on the line, but if he has any problems to overcome they are tremble due to "pressure" and sway. "Even on a calm day the movement of the pistol while aiming is equal to the width of the target black," he says.

While tremble isn't quite as noticeable, Harry believes that many shooters cannot ever get rid of all of it and must work with it as a handicap.

The guns with which Reeves has become the scourge of competitive shooting ranks are carefully selected, especially adapted to his requirements, and jealously maintained in perfect operating condition. Still, he now owns two sets of each of the three calibers, one of which is kept as a spare and taken only on long trips where there is a possibility of his favorite guns going sour or breaking down. For his .22 caliber matches, Harry shoots the Match Target Woodsman on which he has taped a three-ounce lead weight at the muzzle. He gets a set of special grips made expressly for him by his old friend, Lew Sanderson, and always sends a new .22 to a good gunsmith to add an anti-backslap trigger pull. Harry's center-fire shooting is done with the .38 Officers' Model heavy barrel with the following refinements: (a) a short action; (b) Roper sights; (c) Sanderson grips. His .45's are Colt Autos with special accuracy jobs, Sanderson grips, and his own sights. Incidentally, none of Harry's guns are gifts; they were all bought "with my hard-earned cash."

Reeves' theory on sights is that the front sight should be at least one-eighth inch wide with the notch in the rear sight conforming with that dimension. He believes the wide sights give him more accurate definition and alignment of sights, which he considers is the second most important mechanical factor to good shooting—second only to operation of the trigger and much more important than "hold."

A prolific handloader, the Detroit ace produces reloads both for his own use and as an additional source of revenue for himself. Contrary to general belief, the Detroit Police Team is not



Reeves handloads all of his .38 and .45 ammo but insists on shooting .38 factory loads in competition

financed by the Department and each member takes care of his own expenses. Reloading helps in that financing, the ammo being used almost entirely by fellow police officers in their practice firing in preparation for annual qualification time. Harry, himself, uses his .38 caliber reloads for practice firing, but shoots .38 factory ammo in competition. He shoots his own reloads entirely in his .45's.

The methodical Master, pictured by some of his rival shooters as a comparative "professional" by virtue of his police job is, however, not exactly in pistoldom's Valhalla as pistol instructor and range master at Detroit Police Headquarters. Harry regards that simply as his job, preferable to walking a beat, however. Admittedly, it does keep him in constant contact with the sport he does best, but as far as allowing him unlimited practice time, ammunition, and other equipment—well, he says he'd like to see it. As we mentioned before, the police team's program is not underwritten by the Department and Harry Reeves, who could be one of its most powerful sources of good will, often has difficulty getting time off to attend out-of-town competitions. Likewise, he and the other team members must purchase their own arms and, though match ammunition for the State and National Matches is supplied by the Department, generally it is the responsibility of the individual team members.

" 'Tain't so," Harry'll yelp when the charge is made that, of course, he can keep on top what with all that free practice time he has. "All I can hope to do during working hours is fire perhaps ten shots, as a daily average, testing these fixed sight, nickel-plated revolvers that are issued to the men. And all that serves to accomplish is take the place of the dry firing I normally would do to keep myself in some measure of condition during the off-season."

That doesn't mean that all Harry does is bang away with those nickel-plates for the sake of banging. He feels that each practice shot must be taken with all the precision and care of a shot fired in an important match, which explains how he can get so much out of so little practice. Careless shooting is harmful; worse than none at all. The same applies to dry firing, which Reeves recommends for anyone who cannot shoot regularly. Ten minutes a day of serious, conscientious dry practice and you'll do all right, he says.

We asked Harry how he went about preparing for a big match like, for example the Tampa Mid-Winters coming up. He intends to make the trip providing he can get the necessary time off and can raise the dough—which latter consideration is complicated by auto troubles and the fact that the beauteous Mrs. Reeves has no intention of being a grass widow during that period.

Reeves points out that, in the first place, come time for the Mid-Winters and he is relatively out of condition—competitive condition, that is. A busy summertime shooter, his only competitive test in the winter is about one indoor match a month. As a matter of fact, he seldom touches his .22 or .45 caliber guns during the entire indoor season. So, from Harry's standpoint, there is work to be done.

In preparing for the competitive season, he begins something like one month before the first event. That would mean he's starting about now on his Tampa preparation. Anyway, for two weeks he dry fires ten to fifteen minutes a day. Then, if it is possible, he begins shooting the fifty-foot National Match Course once a day for the remaining two weeks.

"Most of this practice I do with the .22," he explained. "It seems to me that I can pay more attention to fundamentals that way and, besides, the higher scores with the .22 help me build up confidence. (Imagine Reeves needing confidence—Ed.) Then, two or three times a week during that second two weeks I'll check out with the .38 and .45 just to get my hand in.

"I keep a record of every score I fire, those practice scores included—even the bad ones. That, to me, seems like a good policy for any shooter to follow because it keeps him from trying to fool himself by discarding the low scores."

Once competition begins, Harry's policy is to concentrate entirely on the aggregate. He never points for any single match. "Just concentrate on the aggregate and high match scores seem to follow," he says. "After all, pressure hits one and all. Nobody is immune to the old 'monkey on the shoulder.' "

That the depression of the early '30s can be credited (or blamed) for starting Reeves on his way to a pistol-shooting career is apparent. After working his way through two years of pre-engineering at the University of Detroit, "Old Man Depression" frightened him into the Marine Corps in 1933 where he fired his first handgun at Parris Island, South Carolina, he admits.

He got his discharge in 1937 as gunnery sergeant after serving aboard the old *Lexington* and making his first trip to Camp Perry as a member of the Marine team that year. He returned to Detroit just in time to apply for and be accepted in a class of training for the police force. For Marv Driver, Coach of the Detroit Police Team, it was a windfall. Reeves tried out for and made the first team within six months and has been No. 1 boy just about ever since. During the war Reeves quickly reentered the Marine Corps—this time as an officer—and after a session of overseas duty in the Pacific and China, doffed major's leaves to return to his job as a patrolman on the force.

Reeves' duties at the big Police Headquarters building are somewhat routine, but the pudgy officer does have the satisfaction of being pretty much his own boss while at the range. Principally, the job consists of supervising the small basement range which, says the man who has fired and won on the finest layouts in the East and Midwest, can be termed no more than adequate for the training of the Motor City's huge force. Specifically, his job consists of supervising all practice, assigning range times to members of the various precincts and divisions for qualification shooting, and supervising the revolver instruction of police trainees. Add to that the statistical work involved in scoring targets and maintaining qualification records and Reeves, even with an assistant, is a pretty busy guy.

In that job Reeves unquestionably qualifies the Department as having the most accomplished pistol instructor in the country. This can be said in spite of the axiom that "good competitor does not necessarily mean good instructor." Harry, as we said, has made a study both of himself and of the men he has fired against, and the result seems to be an extremely sound powder-burning philosophy. We asked him, for example, to give us what he considered to be the most important single factor of good shooting, and here's his answer:

"Above any and all of the mechanical aspects of shooting,

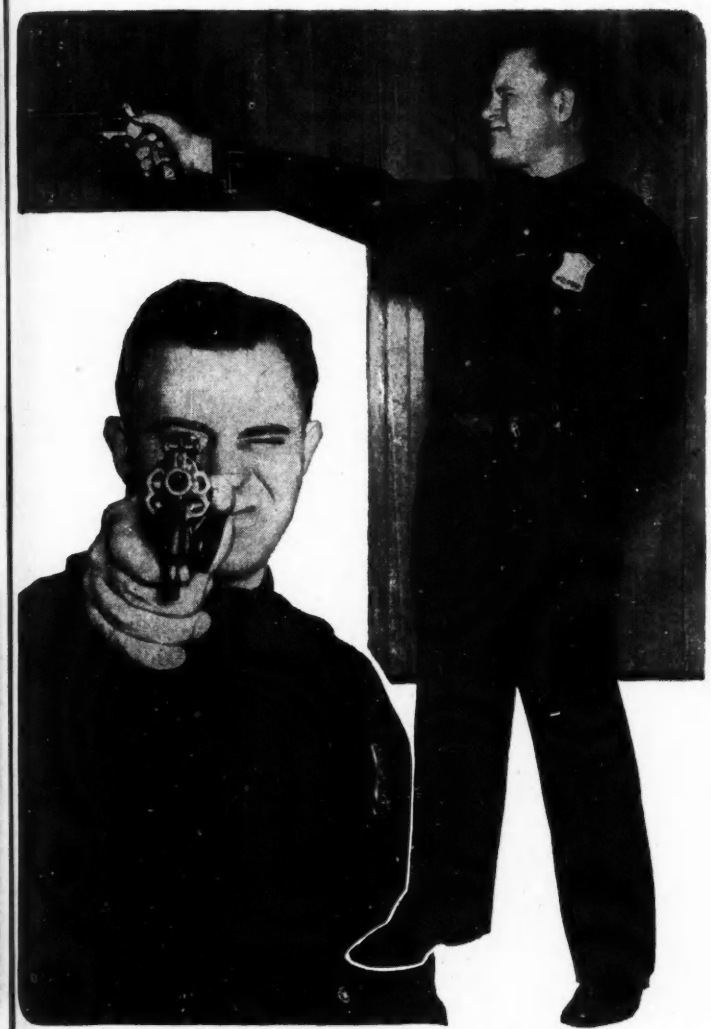
I believe that the difference between a good shooter and a bad shooter is self-control. I think that anyone can shoot good scores provided he is able to control himself and concentrate entirely on sight alignment and trigger control. And, of course, the shooter's general constitution and mental attitude enters into that as strong contributing factors.

"I've seen officers come down to the range just for the sake of giving their service revolvers a little workout—without giving a darn what their score is—and they have fired scores that I couldn't even begin to touch. But put those same fellows on a simple qualification test and generally they're all over the paper. It's lack of the specific self-control which allows a shooter to concentrate on sight alignment that causes it.

"Another thing," Reeves continues. "A shooter must learn to pay no attention to any man's reputation. A defeatist complex means certain defeat."

Now, for Harry today that isn't difficult; for other shooters who must face him on the line it isn't easy. But Reeves, himself, will blame the loss of one important match in his career on just such a complex. It happened in 1937 when, as a Marine corporal, he made that first trip to Camp Perry and nearly made off with the National Title despite the fact he had never fired the .38 revolver in competition. Fearing no shooter because he had never heard of any of them, Reeves did all right against such competition as Emmett Jones, Charlie Askins, Al Hemming, Walter Walsh, Francis O'Connor, and Lee Echols. And then he got wind of their reputations. That did it. The neophyte two-striper still finished a respectable fifth against such company in the All-Around Aggregate, but he made up his mind then and there to pay no more heed to past performances.

Harry really loves to shoot—any type gun; any time; any occasion. He prefers handgun competition because, he feels, there is a more human element to it than rifle shooting, pointing out that the pistolman has no artificial aid like a leather sling. "On the other hand," adds Reeves, "to be completely fair, we pistol shooters don't have to be anywhere near as accurate as rifle shooters." He is a frequent visitor at the hunting camps in northern Michigan, and is surprisingly adept at quick draw, aerial, and double-action shooting. On those subjects, too, he has his theories and is planning an article to explain them. He will not, for example, go along with the term "impulse" shooting for this trick work and he calls it "feel of the gun" shooting. "But," he admonishes, "a shooter should absolutely never attempt any of that until he has mastered deliberate, slow-fire work at a still target."



To Reeves the most important factor in stance is relaxation. Any tension of the body muscles is detrimental to good shooting.

The soft-spoken, mild-mannered champion is the father of two girls—Judy, six, and Nancy, seven—but up to now Harry is the only shooter in the family. "If I want to get into the game at all," Mrs. Reeves complains, "it looks as if I will have to look elsewhere for an instructor because Harry will never help me." As a matter of fact, in the only match she ever entered—in neighboring Windsor, Canada, Florence made off with second prize in the women's division, so the possibilities must be there. However, she might well wonder where she would find a place in the cozy Reeves household to display any of *her* trophies if she did shoot and did win. Every available flat surface in every room seems to be utilized as storage space for Harry's unlimited collection of cups, trophies, plaques and just plain gadgets.

"But I've had 100 percent cooperation in my hobby from my wife," says Harry proudly. "That really helps. I get no kicks or growls when I spend the grocery money for gun work or entry fees, or when I spend most of my evenings and week ends doing reloading or at pistol matches."

"I'm no oracle," Reeves says, in summation, "but I still believe that being stumpy, phlegmatic, and having a measure of self-command is an advantage, all other things being equal."

But if anyone thinks that Harry is slipping or will slip in the near future, he'd better think again. Harry won't agree. He thinks he is better today than ever and that he will be at least as good for some years to come. ♦ ♦ ♦

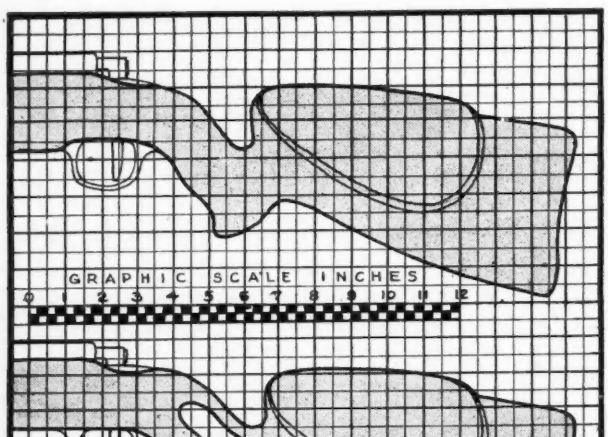
GUNSTOCK DESIGN

By MARK B. BURNHAM

THERE IS ONE THING on which Whelen, Roberts, Christian, and many other writers on gun subjects agree. That is, the shape, fit, and design of the modern gunstock cannot be improved upon. One writer states that, until the human body changes its shape and we have a new model, it is hopeless to seek a better-looking or a better-fitting gunstock. Another writer insists that a gunstock is a matter of flowing lines, each "harmonizing" with the others. He lays down specific rules which simply must be met in stock design if we are to have a rifle fit to shoot.

I agree that a good rifle should be a thing of beauty, but only insofar as beauty can be consistent with "workability." After all, a gun is but a tool or a machine which we hold in our hands and direct. This is true of any hand tool, say a hammer or paintbrush.

But there is one thing that nearly all gunstocks lack—a place to put the thumb. Grip anything with your hands. You must hold it with your fingers, against your thumbs. Without the thumb to work with, none of the four fingers can be fully utilized. At the moment I cannot think of a job that a man can do with his hands in which his thumbs do not play a major part.



Two attempts by the author to design gunstocks which would provide more adequate grips, improving pointability

We ought to have a standard gunstock so designed that we can use our thumbs to help hold and direct the weapon. Also, it is vitally needed to oppose our trigger finger when we squeeze the trigger.

When holding and squeezing, there is nothing to hold and squeeze against except the shoulder, cheek, and awkwardness. Something ought to be done about this; the thumb is too valuable to overlook. If you could put the thumb around the grip or small of the rifle stock and place the palm of the hand more or less behind the grip, the hand and arm would absorb some of the recoil, keeping it off the bridge of the nose. With the present-day stock the thumb is not used. The shooter pulls against the shoulder and cheek with the three lower fingers of his hand.

When the recoil comes, it is absorbed by the cheek and shoulder. The stock should be made in such a way that the shooter could hold the grip in his hand, then concentrate on squeezing the trigger. Unless the rifle can be gripped firmly with the entire hand, the trigger finger is at the mercy of the pressure and pull exerted by the muscles of the arm. With the present gunstock, the old reliable thumb does not oppose the squeeze.

Some stickler for present stock design may argue that the thumb is in there pitching, that it does oppose the trigger finger. He *can* drape it across the grip in front of his nose, if he keeps his nose far enough back. But, in that position, the thumb rests on a plane practically parallel to the line of squeeze. The thumb is not in position to oppose anything—providing, of course, it isn't jammed into his face.

The front curve of all gunstock grips, the underside of the grip where the lower three fingers are placed, is always a concave curve. It is one of the "lines" of the stock. Close or half-close your hand and look at the curve formed by the positions of the fingers. You have another concave curve. You can't fit one concave curve against another. If two curves are to fit snugly together, one must be concave and the other convex. You can force your hand to a convex curve, but your fingers will be awkwardly placed and the muscles of your forearm will be straining. Awkwardness and strain do not contribute to good shooting.

One writer says that the bottom of the grip must be wider than the upper part to form another "line" that will harmonize with the rest. He has already shoved his fingers out of line. Now he is trying to force the shortest finger to fit around the largest part of the grip. That doesn't make sense.

I have worked out several designs for gunstocks during the past twenty years and built these designs into finished guns. When I introduced these guns to my shooting friends, I got the old horselaugh. But after persuading my friends to shoot my "freaks" they all admitted that holding and shooting was very easy with my guns. I checked average scores among shooters who had used my guns; there was an undeniable improvement in every case.

I improved a trap gun, using an old Lefever single barrel. I removed the stock and all the working parts from the receiver, then bent down the upper and lower tangs. I moved the trigger forward about six inches, just back of the hinge and

(Continued on page 15)

UNCLE BEN'S HOBBY

By COL. G. W. OUTLAND

THIS HOBBY RACKET can be carried too far.

I remember one night when it was cold and blowing snow outside so you could hardly get through the revolving door. The pea pool game had busted up and a lot of the boys were gathered around the fire hoping the wind would die down before they went home. As it will happen under such circumstances, a lull came over the group. One of the boys had again recounted with added flourishes a tale of his last deer

"Help, Doc, don't cut so deep!"

hunt. It had been elaborated upon with each telling. Tension was running high. Suddenly a crash came from Uncle Ben's corner. Turning, we saw that he had tipped over the ash tray on the floor. He shouted, "Help, Doc, don't cut so deep!" and then awoke with a sheepish look on his face, seeing all the attention the commotion had attracted.

One of the boys, sensing the drama of the situation, asked for an explanation about his violent dream. His reluctance to be disturbed and his evasive reply about "just an old rabbit hunt" whetted the curiosity of all of us and soon we were launched upon another epic in the life of Uncle Ben. I sometimes wonder about these things.

It seems that in the mixup of the war he got sidetracked to India. The comforts of "Per Diem Hill" were not all they were cracked up to be, as they frequently ran out of fresh meat. To fill this need Uncle Ben occasionally went "over hill, over dale" with his 12 gauge artillery. There was plenty of game—birds, deer, et cetera—but Uncle Ben had difficulty in resisting temptation when one of the big hares took off across the fields. Then, too, they made pretty good stew.

Now, India is a big place, but you can't put 400,000,000 persons in a country without getting them congested. People there have to eat, too, or perhaps it would be better to say that they must save some food. Getting this food is quite a problem. Thousands of miles of canals bring water to arid land where little farms are scratched, planted, and worked by countless oxen, men, women, and kids. When you go hunting, there is a native looking over your gun sight every time you lift it, only he is over in the field a ways, wishing you would get out of his plantings and leave him alone. The report that there is a bounty on Indians is entirely false. If you kill one, you have to pay for his funeral. If you wound one, the hazards are immeasurably greater.

Upon this occasion Uncle Ben had taken a couple of friends and a bearer. In case you don't know, this bearer is a personal servant. He shines your shoes, serves your food, looks after your well-being in general, and gyps you at every opportunity. Uncle Ben needed his as interpreter in case conversation with natives became necessary.

INDIA IS PROBABLY THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHERE WOMEN MIGHT BE FOUND AMONG THE GAME BAG

The hunt had gone well and plenty of game was in hand. Returning to the jeep, they approached a little knoll in the path ahead and it was at just this moment that one of those big, buxom hares took off. With a clear view ahead, Uncle Ben popped him just as he went over the rise. Suddenly hell broke loose ahead.

I wonder how many of you readers have ever heard or seen a bunch of Indians properly excited. They shout, jump up and down, brandish clubs, and in many other ways show an unpleasant form of indignation. If you ever meet with a situation like this, make a hasty retreat. It's safest, and you won't get into the kind of a jam Uncle Ben faced.

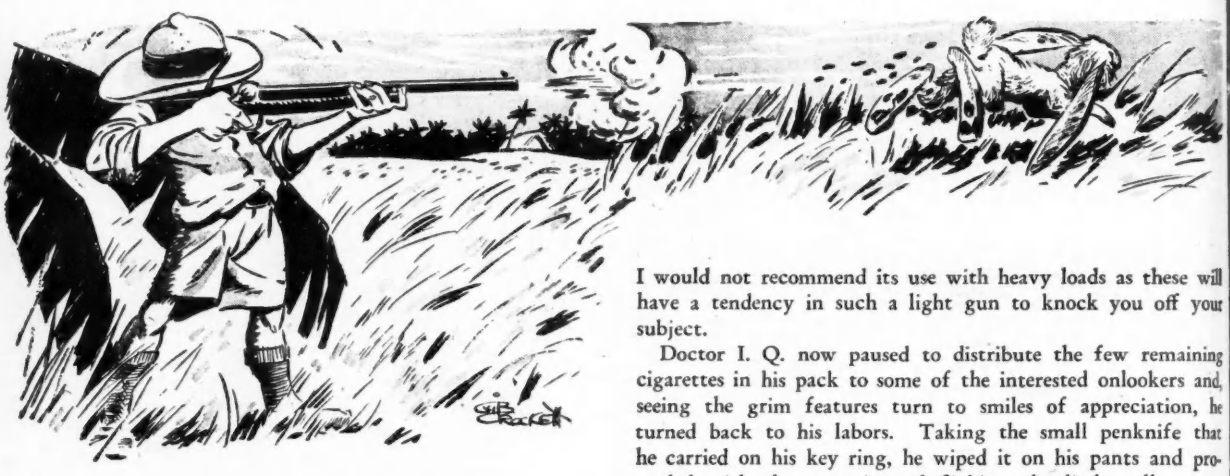
The jeep lay ahead beyond the shouting "Wogs," and calling

The report that there is a bounty on Indians is entirely false.

up his companions, Uncle Ben decided the best tactics would be to brazen the situation through. He wanted his jeep, for it was a long walk back to camp. Up the path and just beyond the rise he found the excited natives clustered around a person on the ground, and a few of the more fanatic rushing him with plasma in the eye. Weapons are a consolation in a

case of this kind. They are effective peacemakers when only casually pointed around here and there. Also, Uncle Ben's smile of bored indifference may have misled them into believing he was a British sahib.

It quickly developed that a native woman had been shot, and thus being incapacitated as a beast of burden in the eyes of her husband, she was no longer of value. She now belonged to Uncle Ben, and the husband only wanted a just and fair price for her. There may bave been moments in other places, perhaps in other climes, when such a proposition would not have been a bad bargain. But in India, in rural India at that, this was a situation requiring rather deep finesse.



. . . Uncle Ben had difficulty in resisting temptation when one of the big hares took off across the fields.

The party moved ahead, and among the jabbering throng a woman lay sprawled beside a manure pile, with here and there a drop of blood oozing from the dark brown skin. Perhaps in her early twenties, dressed in patched and tattered clothes, she presented a pathetic figure of timidity and fright. Uncle Ben, always at his best when treating the weaker sex, beamed benignly and explained through the bearer how fortunate they were that he, the famous American surgeon, Dr. I. Q., was there to heal her wounds and make her well again. As a matter of fact, it was quickly apparent that at the range she was hit only a few scattered pellets had reached her and these had only pricked the surface, imbedding themselves just under the skin. A good rayon chemise would have been ample protection to deaden the blow and prevent injury.

Now, regardless of what you may think of Doctor Ben, he is an opportunist of the first water. For that matter, of the second water, too, if there is no Seltzer around. He has found it expedient to carry along chocolate bars on trips afield, as they offer compact nourishment in time of hunger. After carefully examining his patient to see that all shots had been located that could be classed as more disturbing than near misses, he fished one of those bars out of his pocket, the kind that is divided into neat little squares, so when you break it the crack runs diagonally across up under your thumb. He ate a portion to show his clinic that the stuff was not poison. Then, through the interpreter, he explained that if the patient would take a piece and hold it firmly against the roof of the mouth with her tongue, it would check all pain. If none of the medicine melted, there would be no pain. If it melted a lot, the pain might be severe. It was all up to the patient.

Since this is, after all, a magazine largely read for its technical information, I really should pause here to remark that the gun used at the time was an English double made by Jewell and Son, having an action with selective ejection and a single trigger. The barrels were twenty-seven inches long, an odd size to be sure, but one can expect odd things in India. The right barrel was an improved cylinder, and the left had a modified choke. A nice-handling gun, light in weight, excellent for upland game. I would not recommend its use with heavy loads as these will have a tendency in such a light gun to knock you off your subject.

Doctor I. Q. now paused to distribute the few remaining cigarettes in his pack to some of the interested onlookers and, seeing the grim features turn to smiles of appreciation, he turned back to his labors. Taking the small penknife that he carried on his key ring, he wiped it on his pants and proceeded with the operation of flicking the little pellets out, one by one. In some places where there was ample flesh, he found gentle massage a less harmful technique and equally as effective as the knife. Strangely enough, some of the chocolate had melted, but the patient had been brave so he rewarded her with the remainder of the chocolate.

As she stood up, smiling with her role of heroine in the play, and munching her candy bar, Uncle Ben turned to the husband to offer his congratulations. He found him, however, somewhat reluctant to forget the rupees he had visualized when first considering the possibilities of the accident. Never to be outdone when playing an important role, Uncle Ben brought forth an unopened pack of cigarettes and presented them as

. . . she presented a pathetic figure of timidity and fright.

a gift to the husband. In the midst of the commotion that followed, he turned to his friends and they quickly departed in the direction of the jeep.

You know how grand you feel sometimes after a deed well done. Like the boy scout who has done his part. Your tone is clear, your step is light, you have that grand-to-be-alive feeling. Uncle Ben had gone probably fifty yards, he had finally got his tongue out of the groove in his cheek, the jeep was getting nearer, when all hell broke loose again among the natives.

Uncle Ben's group didn't make it to the jeep before some of the advance party of the onrushing mob caught up with them. Turning, they found a different tone to the jabbering. There were smiles instead of the challenging scowls met before. What the hell! What I mean is, how can an ordinary person figure out some people? First, they don't want you to shoot peacocks for they are a sacred bird. A few rupees quickly exchange hands and there they are flushing them out of their gardens for you.

Uncle Ben stood his ground well. The bearer jabbered with them, and the excitement rose as upon a tidal wave. Hands waved, sticks cracked and there appeared to be trouble brewing among the natives. Harsh words are understandable in any language. Rising to the occasion, Uncle Ben barked his one known Hindu word, *"chipperau,"* and stilled the atmosphere.

There may have been moments in other places, perhaps in other climes, when such a proposition would not have been a bad bargain.

The bearer then had opportunity to explain that these natives were a delegation waiting upon him and begging his kindness and consideration. If he had any more cigarettes would he be so kind as to select some of the other wives in the tribe for shooting. ♦ ♦ ♦

Gunstock Design

(*Continued from page* 12)

a couple or so inches forward of the barrel breech. Then, I made a grip and attached it to the receiver directly under the breech.

The lower end of the grip or hand piece had an extension which curved rearward and joined the stock at a point just back of the trigger position. Of course, I had to redesign the working parts in the receiver along with the top lever and provide a rod connecting the trigger to the sear. The sear had to be actuated by remote control. I provided a new and differently shaped stock, and naturally a shorter one. I shortened the stock as much as or equal to the distance from the old trigger position to the new one, so that I still had thirteen and three-quarter inches from trigger to butt-plate, but shortening the over-all length of the arm. Then, I provided a longer and wider fore-end to give the same reach as before from grip to fore-end. It has what I call improved "pointability."

With it all my shooting friends did better work than usual over the traps. But they did not like it; it was a freak. From the outline of the arm, you can see that it may be a freak—but then anything that dares to depart from the accepted form gets the horselaugh.

Next, I decided to stock a rifle, following the general lines of the accepted design but providing a place for my thumb. I started with a .22 WCF, about an 1878 model sporting rifle with a narrow straight grip and stock. As before, I discarded the old stock, bent the tangs down, and provided a new stock with a pistol grip. I also should have moved the trigger forward on it.

I redesigned all the parts in the receiver and made a new trigger guard which functions as the action lever. Then I bored out the pitted barrel, and relined and chambered it for .22 LR. Of course, the gun had to have a new target fore-end and target sights. I cut the thumbpiece, or spur, from the hammer, reduced the hammer travel to about three-sixteenths of an inch, and made a much stiffer mainspring. It was necessary to make the hammer self-cocking, to be done on the upstroke of the lever.

This outfit made a nice target rifle. It has been fired over 10,000 rounds and still groups very well. I did not get many horselaughs with this compromise, but it does not do exactly what I wanted it to do. It could have better pointability.

Neither of these stocks is satisfactory to me. Neither one has the ideal shape which I think a gunstock should have. However, each is an improvement over the standard crooked stock.

I have made up a couple of other designs which might come a little closer to the ideal. Like the first two, they are a beginning rather than an end in a departure from the standard gunstock design. Perhaps shooters someday will demand a stock that is more scientifically designed, one that has utility, beauty of line, and more natural pointability. ♦ ♦ ♦

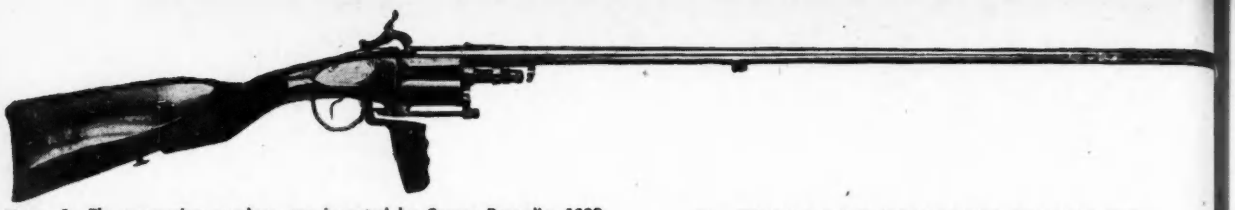


Figure 1: The percussion revolver gun invented by Cesare Rosaglio, 1829 or earlier, antedating Samuel Colt's patent on a revolving firearm

By THOMAS TEMPLE HOOPES

Two Early Revolvers

IN 1836, SAMUEL COLT received a patent on his invention of a revolving firearm. There were three principal characteristics on which the Colt patent was claimed: these were the revolving of the cylinder automatically by the act of cocking the hammer; the automatic locking of the cylinder in firing position and its unlocking automatically after firing; and the arrangement of the nipples with partitions between them to prevent simultaneous ignition of several chambers. Revolvers were, of course, known long before the Colt patent was granted, but it was not until the appearance of these improvements that the revolving firearm became practical.

Although the patent was issued in 1836, Mr. Colt had been working on the invention for some time and had begun the preparation of his first working model in 1830. As this first working model lacked the second and third of the patented features,† we may assume that Colt's complete invention was, before 1831, still inchoate. His first production of revolvers began in the summer of 1836, at Paterson, New Jersey.

The Tøjhus Museum of Copenhagen has recently published an admirable monograph by Arne Hoff, *The Rasmussen Revolving Guns.*‡ It proves that a certain Peder Rasmussen, town clerk of Rudkøbing, Denmark, invented and had made a number of revolving guns at dates considerably antedating Colt's. In 1832 he submitted to the King of Denmark drawings and descriptions of revolving arms, and from 1832 to 1834 he made guns of this type. These were provided with an operating lever which, on its forward stroke, rotated the cylinder and cocked the hammer; then, on the rearward stroke, locked the cylinder in firing position and automatically released the hammer. There was no trigger. The cylinders seem to have had the nipples set in independent wells, except for some late models in which they were separated by partitions. The wells, of course, served the same purpose, but were probably a more difficult construction. Thus, Rasmussen anticipated all three of Colt's principal claims.

But he was not the only one. In an Austrian private collection there is a gun (Figure 1, 1a) which apparently precedes both Rasmussen and Colt, although without having the safety feature of partitions between the nipples. On the engraved lock and counterlock plates are inscriptions (Figures 2, 3) in Italian, indicating that the gun was invented by Cesare Rosaglio and granted a medal as a prize at Venice in 1829, and that this specimen was made at Crema in 1830 by Giacomo Verno under license.

When we examine the operating mechanism of the piece, we find (Figure 3) a very neat, workmanlike arm; not at all a crude model made for patent or promotion purposes, but a finished job of gunsmithing, intended for practical use. The cylinder has six chambers and the nipples, set slightly askew rather than radially, are so widely spaced that a partition between them would seem inessential. There is an operating lever with an attached wooden handle serving as a grip for the left hand. When, after firing, this grip is pulled to the rear and then returned to its original position, the cylinder will be revolved and the hammer cocked, ready for the next shot which is fired by pulling a conventional trigger. The action should be as simple and as fast as that of a modern "pump action" repeating shotgun, and like it should be operable without lowering the piece from the shoulder.

There is another feature of the gun which is of unusual interest. Early revolvers always suffered from escape of gas between cylinder and barrel. Colt did nothing to reduce this disadvantage beyond machining both parts with unusual accuracy, to make the space available to escaping gas as narrow as possible. Rasmussen had an ingenious but not very practical "valve" which gave trouble on official tests. Rosaglio, however, adopted a method perhaps suggested by the flintlock revolvers of Elisha H. Collier. It will be observed that each chamber of the cylinder ends in a short flange projecting from the cylinder block. When the action is operated, it not only rotates the cylinder but also first draws it back enough for the flanges to clear the barrel. After the next chamber has been rotated into

† Haven and Belden: "A History of the Colt Revolver."

‡ Tøjhusmuseets Shrifter 4 (translated edition), Copenhagen, Nordlund, 1946.

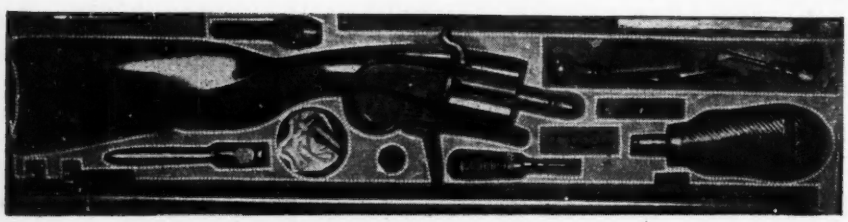
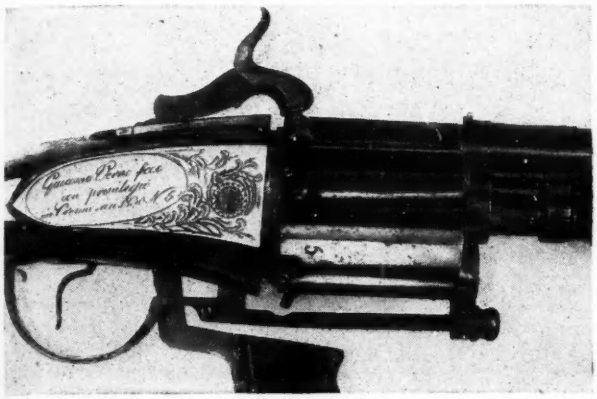


Figure 1a: Rosaglio's revolver gun, dismounted, in case with accessories

position, the cylinder is pushed forward again, so that the flange fits within a corresponding enlargement at the rear of the barrel. This provides at the same time a gas check and a positive cylinder lock.

The details of the rather complicated mechanism can be studied in the illustrations. Figure 4 shows the right or lock side of the action, which contains the discharge mechanism,



including: (1) hammer, (2) mainspring, (3) tumbler, (4) trigger-sear, (5) trigger bridle, (6) trigger spring, and (7) cylinder stop spring. The action is in position as though immediately after firing.

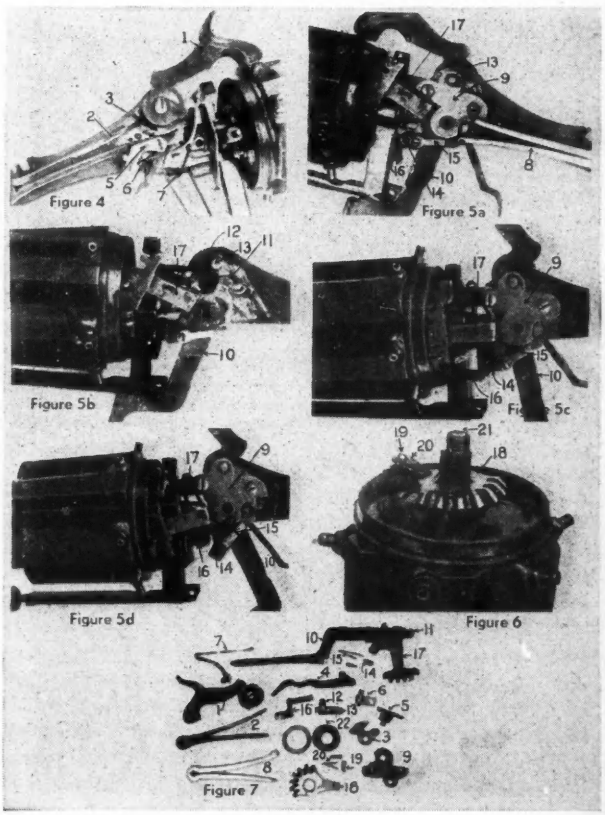
In Figure 5 we see the opposite side of the mechanism, comprising the device for withdrawing the cylinder from the barrel, rotating it, and advancing it again to make a gas-tight contact. Figure 5a shows the position after firing. We can recognize the powerful action spring (8) with its roller bearing on an extension of the operating lever (10). That lever is pivoted beneath a large bridle (9). When this bridle and the action spring are removed, as in Figure 5b, the form and functions of this lever can be better appreciated. The head of the operating lever has two sidewise projecting pivots, engaging respectively the central lock plate and the bridle. It has four radial projections. One, to the lower rear, is the extension against which the action spring operates. A second (11), above the pivot, is a lug which operates on a cam (12) projecting from the hammer arbor (13) which passes through the lock plate. When the operating lever is pulled backwards, the lug moves forward, engages the cam, and cocks the hammer. A third projection, low and towards the muzzle, carries a spring pawl (14) which operates the cylinder stop (16). The fourth (17), level with the pivots and projecting forward, with an offset, is an operating arm terminating in a toothed sector. This sector engages a corresponding quadrant on a collar, the form of which can be better observed in (18), Figures 6 and 7. It also has a short extension carrying a spring pawl. The collar is connected by splines with a nut (22), Figure 7, which turns freely within the cylinder but has no end play. Its thread meshes with a high-pitched thread on the rear portion of the cylinder arbor.

Through the mechanical advantage provided by the differing radii of the operating arm and the collar, a comparatively short motion of the operating lever rotates the collar about 120 degrees. During the first part of this motion the splines turn

Figure 2 (above): Inscription on the left side the Rosaglio gun. The date actually is 1829. Figure 3 (left): Detail of right side of the Rosaglio gun, showing the inscription, trigger, operating lever, hammer, and 6-shot cylinder

the nut; the nut rotates on the cylinder arbor, moving to the rear and pulling the cylinder with it; thus disengaging the chamber flange from the rear of the barrel. At the same time the pawl (14), on the third radial projection from the operating lever, has come into engagement with the cylinder stop (16) and pulled it to the rear, against the force of the cylinder stop spring which we have previously observed on the other side of the lock plate.

At this point the pawl on the collar engages one of the stop notches in the cylinder, and rotates the latter with it for the



remaining 60 degrees, bringing a fresh chamber into position behind the barrel. As it does so, the pawl on the operating lever, which has been holding back the cylinder stop, passes out of engagement with it, whereupon the cylinder stop spring forces the stop forward into a notch in the cylinder (not the notch in which the collar pawl has been working but the next one, 60 degrees counterclockwise from it).

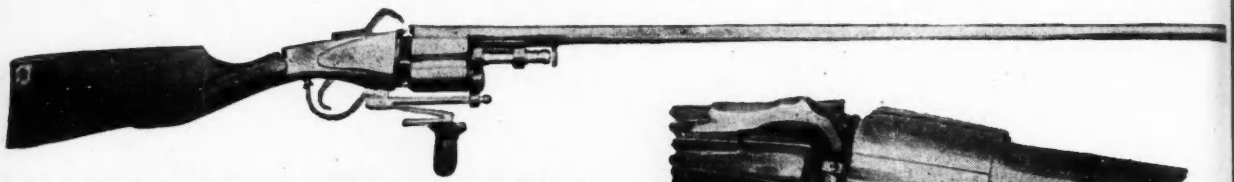


Figure 8 (above): Detonator revolver gun, unsigned, probably also by Verno after Rosaglio (Innsbruck, Schloss Ambras, No. 2555)
Figure 9 (right): Detail of lockside of detonator gun, showing chamber flanges

When tension on the operating lever is released (the shooter does not need actually to let go of it at any time), the action spring returns the lever to its original position. The cylinder is locked in place by the cylinder stop, but nut and collar can rotate. As they do so the nut moves forward, carrying the cylinder with it, and forcing the cylinder flange well into the rear of the barrel. The cylinder stop is sufficiently long so that this forward motion of the cylinder does not disengage it. As the collar returns to its initial position, the collar pawl passes over one stop notch and comes nearly, but not quite, into engagement with the next one.

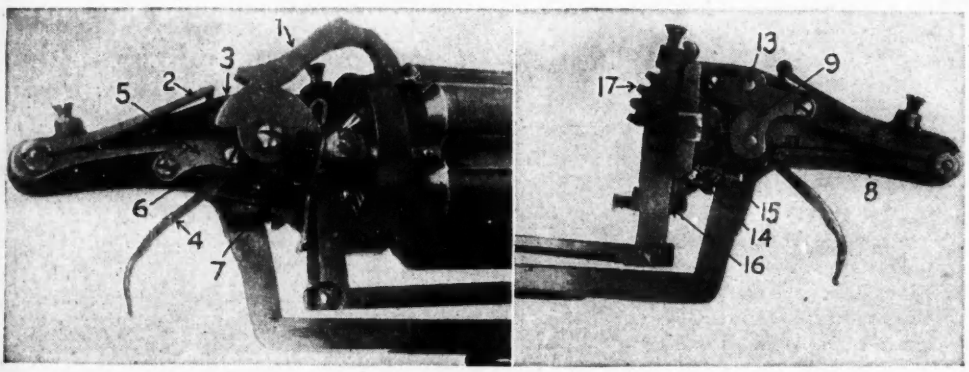


Figure 10: Lock mechanism of detonator gun: 1) Hammer; 2) Mainspring; 3) Tumbler; 4) Trigger; 5) Trigger bridle; 6) Trigger spring; 7) Cylinder stop spring
Figure 11: Action mechanism with barrel, cylinder, and hammer removed: 8) Action spring; 9) Action bridge; 13) Hammer arbor; 14) Cylinder stop pawl; 15) Cylinder stop pawl spring; 16) Cylinder stop; 17) Operating arm

Figure 5c shows the operating lever about three-fourths back, with the cylinder stop fully retracted. Figure 5d shows it at the end of its travel, with its pawl disengaged from the cylinder stop, and the latter sprung back into position to lock the cylinder. With careful observation, one can see the notch in the head of the cylinder stop, in which the pawl has been operating. Figure 6 shows the end of the cylinder and its arbor, with the collar in place. The pawl and pawl spring can be observed, as also the sloping tracks of the pawl on the cylinder head. Figure 7 shows the parts of the lock and action.

The mechanism is amazingly ingenious, but the excellent workmanship is still not better than that on other fine, though simpler, sporting arms of the early nineteenth century. There is no trace of modern machining, or other indication of fraud. We can, therefore, not unreasonably accept this gun as an authentic specimen of not later than 1830.

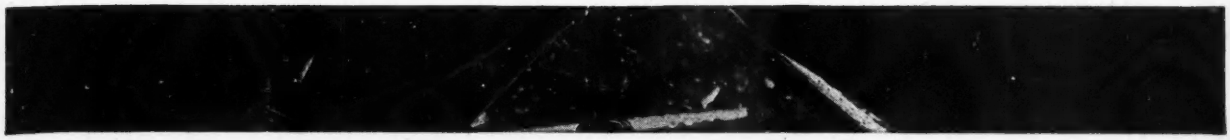
However, if there were any question as to the date of the arm, we should find helpful confirmation in another specimen which is or was, until recently, in the collection at Schloss Ambras, Innsbruck, Austria, where it is carried on the inventory as No. 2555 (Figure 8). This gun bears no inscription indicating place or date of manufacture, but even superficial examination convinces one of its close relationship with the previous specimen. Figure 9 shows the chamber-flange gas seal used exactly as in the former case. Figures 10 and 11 show the internal mechanism from the lock and action sides respectively.

There are slight differences in form, but the general design and construction of the two guns are, except in one respect, identical.

That respect is in the manner of ignition. The gun made in 1830 used percussion caps, the method invented about 1815, and used almost exclusively for many years thereafter. But the Schloss Ambras gun is fired on the detonator principle, invented in 1807 and used only until superseded by the percussion cap. While the late form did not necessarily immediately take the place of the earlier, it is only reasonable to assume that the detonator specimen was made before the percussion cap gun, hence still earlier than 1830. In any case we must admit Cesare Rosaglio, predecessor of Rasmussen and Colt, to the list of inventors whose combined ingenuity has resulted in that fine precision instrument, the modern revolving firearm. ◆ ◆ ◆

The material presented here is excerpted from the manuscript, now in preparation, of a corpus and history of firearms, to be published as a joint effort of Dr. Hoopes and Mr. William G. Renwick.

AN EASTERN DEER HUNTER GIVES THE REASONS WHY HE FAVORS THE .35 CALIBER REMINGTON AS A HUNTING ARM. THIS IS THE SECOND OF A SERIES BEGUN WITH RINKENBERGER'S "ONE MAN'S MEAT"



EVERYMAN'S DEER RIFLE

By RICHARD WAGNER

I STUMBLED ON WHAT NOW is my favorite deer rifle about eight years ago. A group of hunting buddies asked me to choose a deer rifle suitable for use on whitetail deer in Pennsylvania and in Ontario, Canada, with the understanding that the six of us would purchase rifles of the model and caliber I selected. The difficult part of this assignment lay in the fact that I felt honor bound to select a rifle which would best serve the interests of the *average* member of the group, and not merely the rifle which I would choose for myself.

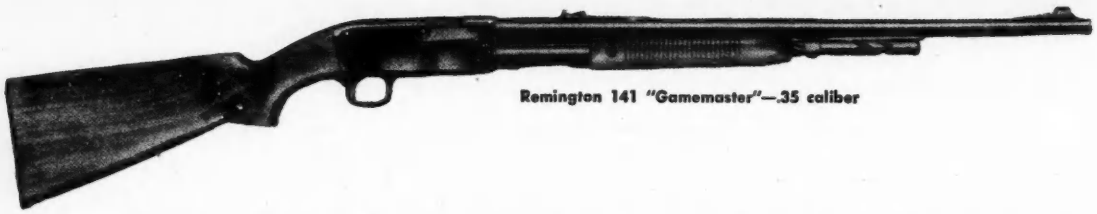
My knowledge of the other five members and of the hunting conditions they faced just about precluded the Model 70 Winchester. I was the only member who was experienced with bolt-action rifles, and I had doubts about my own ability to get off more than one aimed shot at running deer in thick cover. And I had little expectation that the members of my group would secure many standing shots. We were all city men and rather leaden-footed in the woods. This left the semi-auto, lever, and pump rifles to choose from.

The semi-auto was immediately eliminated because of legal restrictions in some of the hunting territory. Of the lever guns, the then fairly new Model 71 Winchester in .348 caliber would have been my choice had I been selecting a rifle only for myself. (With the 200 grain bullet and a peep sight, it's an excellent hunting arm).

However, I knew that four of the other five members of the group used a pump shotgun for upland game, and the fifth used a semi-auto shotgun. None had ever used lever-action rifles. In addition, I considered the fact that the average age of these five men was about fifty years, and some of them would need a scope sight within a few years. Scopes do not lend themselves too well to the Model 71. Therefore, I chose the Model 141 Remington pump, in .35 caliber, as it favored the scope and its operation would be instinctive with the members of this group in moments of stress.

I have often thought that the slight sacrifice of my personal tastes to the group welfare has been amply rewarded, for I have thus become acquainted with a very fine rifle which, I think, has not been sufficiently appreciated by riflemen. The six rifles purchased by our group have given great satisfaction to the users, and I doubt if, under similar conditions, a better choice could be made for similar hunters of whitetail deer.

The rifle, when purchased, was equipped with open sights, the only sights standard on this arm. I immediately replaced the front sight with a King Red Post with mirror reflector



Remington 141 "Gamemaster"—.35 caliber

and the open rear sight with a blank, attaching a 56 Lyman receiver peep. I sighted the rifle to group at the top of the post at 150 yards, which causes it to shoot about five inches low at 200 yards. While sighting in this rifle I first became aware of its really excellent accuracy with the 200 grain load, which I have used exclusively. My conviction that this accuracy has been underestimated by the shooting fraternity has slowly grown with the years. If you keep the take-down screw tightened fully, and do not take the gun down to clean it but use a wooden or aluminum rod, this rifle and load, with the above sights or scope, will shoot into five inches at 200 yards. I suspect that the people at the Winchester plant must have discovered the accurary inherent in the .35 Remington cartridge, else they would hardly have chambered their Model 70 Winchester for it.

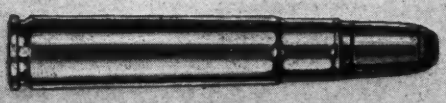
It has been the habit of our group to put on some practice shoots prior to the deer season, firing at the Stoeger Standing Deer Target at 100 yards offhand, slow fire, and at fifty yards rapid fire. For my own use, I shoot offhand slow fire at 200 yards, and unless there is a high wind blowing can generally keep ten consecutive shots in the chest area at this distance. I have, on two occasions, put five shots in the chest area in ten seconds at 100 yards.

The .35 Remington case seems to be a shortened .30-'06, which may account for its accuracy. Shortly after acquiring the rifle, I obtained about six pounds of Pyro DG, and decided to work up a satisfactory reload using this powder. I could find no loading data for it, so a query was sent to F. C. Ness, who recommended a load of 32 grains of Pyro behind the 200 grain Ideal gas-check bullet No. 358315. My friend, Lawrence Choura, and I worked up some loads, finally deciding on a bullet hardness of one part tin to eight parts of lead. Tests showed that best accuracy resulted with the bullet sized to .358. This load grouped right with the factory 200 grain load up to 100 yards, but fell off rapidly above that distance and was more than one foot lower at 200 yards than the factory bullet. Ness estimated the velocity at about 2,000 foot-seconds. This load shot consistently into three inches at 100 yards, and occasionally threw groups so close that I do not care to quote them.

As regards the results with the factory cartridge on deer, I have found it to be a sure, but not a spectacular killer. I have always used the soft-point bullet, lately the soft-point Core-Lokt Remington. Both bullets have always gone clear through on broadside and angle shots, but have failed to emerge on shots raking the whole length of the body. The greatest point in favor of this cartridge, aside from its accuracy, is its ability to shoot through brush without deflecting, a point which will be appreciated by those familiar with Ontario deer cover. The 200 grain soft point does not destroy much meat, and I have never seen the exit hole exceed one inch in diameter.

The rifle as sold over the counter with open sights leaves something to be desired in the way of sighting equipment. But for hunting whitetails in thick cover where the average range is fifty yards and under, even these sights are satisfactory. I have added a trigger shoe to the trigger, it being rather narrow and not grooved or checkered, and had the pistol grip checked. As most hunters know, a carrying sling is also handy for dragging deer, which was one reason for my adding one. The factory trigger pulls are generally good. However, to me the great weakness of the rifle lies in the difficulty of adjusting that pull. Study the action carefully before stoning it.

I have never had a malfunction or "freeze up" with this action, as was predicted by one person. While covering wounded game, you can stuff cartridges into the magazine without removing the rifle from the shoulder or opening the action. Also, while functioning, there is less disturbance of the sights with this rifle than with any other except the auto. I believe



The .35 Remington cartridge is one of a family of four developed by the Remington Arms Company. The other members are the .25 Remington, .30 Remington, and the .32 Remington. These cartridges have counterparts in the line developed by Winchester. The corresponding Winchester cartridges are the .25-35 Winchester, .30-30 Winchester, .32 Winchester Special, and the .35 WCF. The ballistics of the corresponding members of the two families are practically the same. However, the cartridges are not interchangeable, because the Remington cartridges are rimless and the Winchester cartridges are rimmed.

Back in 1906 Remington came out with the Model 8 autoloader rifle which was designed by John M. Browning. This rifle could be obtained chambered for any one of the above-mentioned Remington rimless cartridges. This rifle was produced by Remington up until 1936 when they replaced it with the Remington Model 81 autoloading rifle.

Remington also introduced a slide-action rifle in 1912 in the form of the Model 14. This rifle was not chambered for the .35 Remington when it was first introduced but was later chambered for this cartridge. The Model 14 was replaced by the Model 141 Game Master slide-action rifle in 1936.

The .35 Remington cartridge has been popular in this country for use on game such as deer or black bear when hunting in brush country. It is not a long-range cartridge but is capable of five-inch groups at 200 yards.

that the .35 Remington pump will deliver aimed shots as fast as the .35 auto, since it is possible to pump the gun while recovering from the recoil. And the recoil of the .35 Remington 141 never seemed nearly as stiff as that of the .30-'06.

The rifle is well stocked, the comb is thick and the pistol grip well shaped, though it may be too great in circumference for some tastes; the drop at comb and heel is not excessive. There is considerable down pitch to the stock which makes the buttplate cling to the shoulder well without interfering with the rapid mounting of the rifle. I have heard criticism to the effect that the beavertail-type fore-end rattles objectionably, but this has never bothered me while hunting. Of course, if you seize the fore-end and shake it sharply from front to rear, you can produce a clicking noise when the action is locked.

In conclusion, it seems to me that this rifle fills a very definite need and fills it well, which accounts for the fact that three years ago in a certain hunting camp, fourteen of the twenty-six rifles in camp were Model 141 Remingtons, all .35 caliber.

Probably most of the cartridges let off at big game in this country are fired at whitetail deer, which are hunted mostly in the North and East.

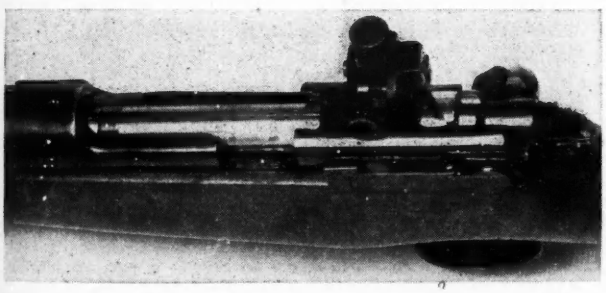
The average deer hunter is not an informed rifleman. He does not take the time to learn to operate the modern bolt action rapidly from the shoulder, or to become expert in picking the proper load from the bewildering array of bullet weights and styles available for such rifles. He can operate the .35 Remington Model 141 as easily as his pet shotgun or .22; the gun looks and feels like a shotgun, and handles like one. As a general rule, the average hunter will not be confused by such things as what bullet weight to choose, since he will probably never see a box of the 150 grain bullets, which is just as well.

So, the next time you encounter one of these rifles in the deer cover, don't feel too sorry for the bearer as you fondle your scope-sighted Model 70, 720, or custom Mauser, because he is not as badly armed as you might think. He will probably do a better job with it than if he were armed with your pet.

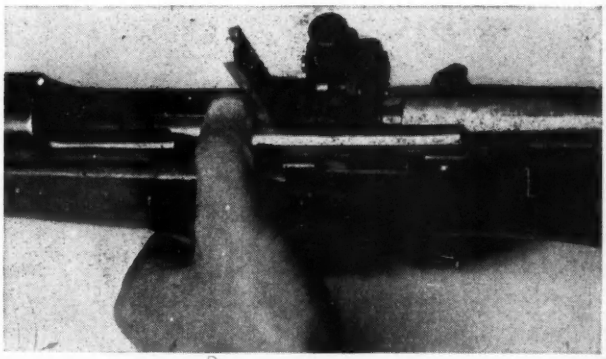
LEFT-HAND ENFIELD MAGAZINE

ONE OF THE TOP THRILLS for a rifleman is .30 caliber shooting. The rapid-fire courses offer a challenge to experts that can be met only by smooth rifle operation and mastery of the positions used. Even the spectators, ears wisely stuffed with cotton, enjoy a secondhand pleasure as the bolts snap back and the clips strip into the magazines. But most activity will be found at one end of the firing line, where the left-handers are displaying somewhat more than normal agility, due to the construction of the Springfield and the Enfield.

These arms were made solely for right-handed shooters. The right-hand bolt is not impossible for a southpaw; he merely gets the action out of range of his chin, grabs the bolt handle in a backhand grip, and pulls. Putting a new clip into the magazine is another story. Operating from the left side, he can push four cartridges in smoothly. At this point he meets a steel wall, the high side of the receiver. To get that last cartridge into place, the left-hander must raise his hand and push straight down with his thumb.



This condition hurts the scores of left-handed shooters and, as a result, they feel rather strongly about it. Joseph L. Bayer, of Philadelphia, right-handed but forced to shoot in the left-hand position because of an injury, decided to do something so that he could more easily load his gun.



A good score always depends upon the proper functioning of both the rifle and the shooter. In rapid-fire courses, anything which interrupts the smooth, swift functioning of either the gun or the shooter means a poor score—defeat. To prevent just this interruption, Mr. Bayer took his milling machine and went to work on his .30 caliber rifle. What resulted was a notch similar to those found on the left side of Mauser actions.

The left wall of the action was milled away sufficiently to allow the left thumb to touch the magazine follower. The cut was started quite close to the clip slot. Bayer says the slot should not be shorter than an inch and a quarter since a long slot allows the thumb to slide along the top cartridge, which is helpful when stripping a fresh clip into the rifle. Since fine steel takes a very sharp edge, Bayer warns that the corners of the cut should be rounded.—FRANCIS HEININGER.

The .219 Donaldson-WASP

By SAMUEL CLARK, Jr.

When Harry M. Pope guaranteed that any rifle barrel bearing his name was capable, *in his hands*, of producing ten-shot groups of a certain size at 200 yards, he started something which few, if any, gunsmiths have been willing to follow. In fact, times have so changed that manufacturers of rifle barrels avoid, whenever possible, any reference to accuracy of their product. Even in available rifle literature, the matter of accuracy is nearly lost in the discussions of velocity, trajectory,

NOT SINCE THE LEGENDARY DAYS OF HARRY POPE HAS A GUNMAKER *GUARANTEED* THE ACCURACY OF A RIFLE AND CARTRIDGE . . .

killing power, et cetera. This is sad. What possible good is a velocity of 4,000 foot-seconds unless satisfactory accuracy is attained?

Despite this attitude, two New Haven gunsmiths, Morgan and Cail, found early in 1946 that they could produce a .22 caliber wildcat varmint and target rifle so superbly accurate that it could be guaranteed, if made to their own specifications, to shoot three consecutive ten-shot groups, measuring one inch or less at 100 yards from bench rest.

Since that time varmint and target shooters, in search of extreme accuracy at velocities up to 4,000 foot-seconds, have heard much about the .219 Donaldson-Wasp.

It seems that back in 1935, Harvey Donaldson, of Fultonville, New York, began experimenting with an improved high-speed, .22 caliber, cartridge case design. His object was to improve on the efficiency of .22 caliber cases then in use, and to attain extreme accuracy and high velocity with a comparatively small powder charge.

Visualizing a perfect case, Donaldson felt that the ultimate in accuracy was the first consideration and that nothing should be sacrificed to attain this end. Secondly, he would strive for as high velocity as possible without sacrificing other objectives. Lastly, he wanted a case designed to utilize a very small powder charge when full. With these objectives attained, barrel life would be prolonged, muzzle blast reduced, and comparative safety assured. It would be difficult to get a dangerous powder charge into a case designed to be used approximately full.

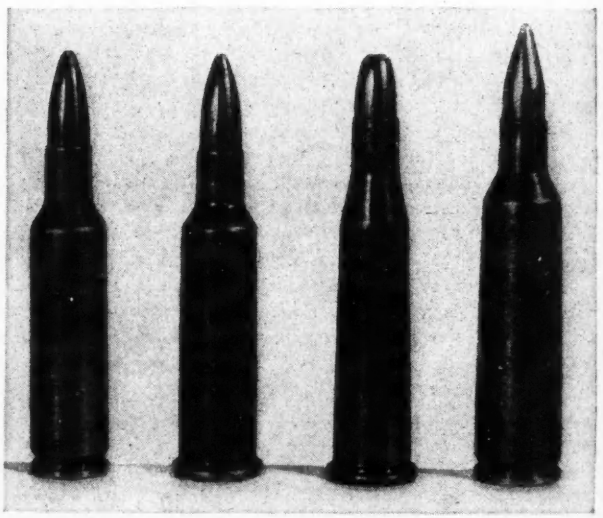
His idea in designing the Wasp case lay, not so much in improving any existing cartridge case, as in designing an entirely new case which would embody these desirable features. His hopes of success were founded on the conviction that the amount of powder a case held was not so important as the amount of powder that case could be made to burn efficiently.

Vernor Gipson was the first gunsmith to become interested in the case which Donaldson was working on. Between 1935 and 1945, he did the mechanical work as each change and improvement was decided upon.

During this time, Donaldson attempted an improved version of the .219 Zipper case. However, it was not until a design was made up, based on the .25 caliber Remington rimless case shortened and necked to .22 caliber, that the real principle underlying the later success of the Wasp case was realized. This altered .25 caliber Remington rimless differed from the improved Zipper case in that it was short and fat, and held about ten grains less powder.

When reamers had been made by Gipson and a rifle chambered for this little case, Donaldson soon discovered that he could shoot through more steel, despite the reduced powder capacity, than was possible using the improved Zipper-type case and fully six grains more of powder. In addition to this, the accuracy of the rifle, utilizing the reduced .25 caliber Remington rimless case with its short, fat shape, was greatly superior to that obtained with the larger-capacity Zipper-type case. Here again we see that it was the powder being efficiently burned which counted, and that beyond this point added powder capacity was of no value and, possibly, was actually detrimental to accuracy.

Utilizing the principles learned in these and other experiments, Donaldson felt that at last he was on the right track. Progress was slow since, for every suggested change, it was



These are the four cartridges which figure in the Donaldson-Wasp story. Left to right: rimless .219; the rimmed version; .219 Zipper; and the .22 Varminter

necessary to make up chambering reamers, chamber and fit one more barrel and test fire it for results, which would then be checked and double-checked against the results obtained from previous barrels. However, by the fall of 1941, Donaldson felt that the object of these years of experimenting had been attained. Vernor Gipson once more made up chambering reamers and a rifle was completed for the new case. It was called the .219 Donaldson-Wasp.

The Wasp design was adapted to either rimmed or rimless

cases, making it possible to utilize either .25-35, .30-30, .22 Hi-Power, or .219 Winchester Zipper brass for the rimmed version. The .219 Zipper was preferred for ease of forming and for its heavier material. For the rimless Wasp, the .25 caliber or .30 caliber Remington rimless case was used after being shortened, reformed, and necked to .22 caliber.

Early in 1945 N. H. Roberts advised me that, in his opinion, the Wasp case was just the thing to use in building up a super-accurate offhand rifle. Eventually I interested my friend, Al Marciante, the Trenton, New Jersey, gunsmith, in making up reamers for the .219 Donaldson-Wasp and chambering a barrel for this case, which he fitted to a Winchester S.S. action for my use. This rifle shot well but was no more accurate than other wildcat rifles with which I was familiar. It would occasionally shoot a three-quarter-inch group of ten shots from bench rest at 100 yards but more often it shot an inch group. A typical fifty-shot string consisting of five ten-shot groups from bench rest, using best loads, would measure as follows: 1⅛ inches, ⅞ inch, 1 and 3/16 inches, 1¼ inches, and 1 and 1/16 inches.

I finally settled on a load of 29.5 grains of No. 3031 powder, and the 48 grain Swift bullet, No. 115 primer and graphite wads. The velocity of this load, which I used extensively at the target and on varmints during the summer of 1945, was determined to be approximately 3,750 foot-seconds.

Bullets were very scarce (I was not making my own at the time) and I was obliged to use almost entirely the 48 grain Swift bullet with, now and then, a few 45 and 50 grain bullets of various makes. With these light bullets, graphite wads were used almost exclusively. It was not until later that I discovered that near-maximum loads employing wads did not give as good accuracy with any bullet over 50 grains as with bullets of 48 grains or less weight. Early in my experience with the Wasp, I also found that the No. 120 Winchester or equal primers were too strong for full loads and heavy bullets in the Wasp case, although they worked well in reduced target loads. The No. 115 Winchester primer, however, proved to be just right.

The first thing that had interested me about the Wasp case was its very great efficiency as compared with other wildcat cases. For instance, Donaldson had contended that he could shoot through more steel with his Wasp than he could with other wildcat rifles, in spite of the fact that these other wildcats used from six to ten grains more powder than the Wasp. Later developments proved this to be entirely true.

At this time, I had a friend in New Haven by the name of Vaughn Cail. He was a .22 Varminter enthusiast, and was skeptical indeed about Wasp velocities. But when, with 31 grains of No. 4320 powder, and the 55 grain bullet, I shot through more steel than was possible with his Varminter, which was using five more grains of powder and the same bullet, he agreed that the little case must pack quite a wallop.

When Cail returned to New Haven and showed the Wasp case to friends, they laughed when he stated that Swift velocities could be obtained from it. They offered to wager that, using the 48 grain Swift bullet, 4,000 foot-seconds could not be reached with any load that could be crowded into the little case. Cail accepted the wager. When tests on the electronic chronograph showed an average velocity of 4,069 foot-seconds with only 29 grains of HiVel No. 3, they could hardly believe the evidence of their own eyes.

Pleased with these results, Cail arranged to have other loads from the Wasp rifle tested on the electronic chronograph. Here are the results of these tests:

Bullet	*Powder*	*Charge*	*Average Muzzle Velocity*
48 gr. Win. Swift	HiVel No. 3	29 grains	4,064 f.s.
45 gr. W–M	HiVel No. 3	29 grains	3,874 f.s.
50 gr. W–M	HiVel No. 3	29 grains	4,039 f.s.
35 gr. Sisk	HiVel No. 3	30 grains	4,018 f.s.
63 gr. Sisk	No. 3031 du Pont	27.5 grains	3,485 f.s.
55 gr. Doering	No. 3031 du Pont	28.5 grains	3,631 f.s.
55 gr. Sisk	No. 3031 du Pont	29 grains	3,715 f.s.
48 gr. Win. Swift	No. 3031 du Pont	29 grains	3,689 f.s.
45 gr. W–M	No. 4320 du Pont	31 grains	3,600 f.s.
48 gr. Win. Swift	No. 4759 du Pont	20 grains	2,990 f.s.
55 gr. Clark R.C.B.S.	No. 4320 du Pont	31 grains	3,626 f.s.

Three different shapes of RCBS bullets used in the Wasp rifles: A is the BS point; B is the shape preferred by the author; and C, that used by Donaldson

Cail and I discussed the merits of various .22 wildcat cartridges for hours on end. While I was unable to get the accuracy out of my Wasp that I was after, I nevertheless thought that extreme accuracy could be had with it. Cail was inclined to agree with my argument, which went something like this:

Consider two .22 wildcat rifles chambered for different cases, both having barrels of equal accuracy and all other conditions identical. One case with six grains less of powder shows greater velocity than the other, which means that the powder in that case is burned with greater efficiency due to the design of the case.

As used here, the word efficiency refers only to the ratio between the weight of powder used and velocity attained, not to the ratio between pressure and velocity attained. We were not concerned with pressures in this case so long as they remained within safe limits.

But Cail felt that one Wasp made up on a good Model 70 action would have greater accuracy than any Wasp fitted to a single-shot action that I could dig up.

Cail had his Wasp on a Model 70 chambered by Marciante and, although I have carefully tried over a dozen Wasp rifles on single-shot actions for accuracy, I have never found one that would even approach the small groups his rifle makes. Today Cail's Wasp has fired over 3500 rounds and still groups as closely as it ever did.

About this time Al Marciante became involved in other rifle work and Cail formed a partnership with Dick Morgan, an exceptionally fine riflesmith. They set up shop in New Haven, where after their day's work in two of the large arms factories,

they began chambering rifles for the .219 Donaldson-Wasp case to specifications furnished by Donaldson himself.

Most of the early .219 Donaldson-Wasp rifles made by Vernor Gipson and later by Bob Keel of Albany, New York, were, in my opinion, somewhat handicapped by being fitted to single-shot actions. It should also be pointed out that the Wasp rifles now being made by Morgan and Cail of New Haven, and fitted to bolt actions, are the only ones which employ the later type of chamber that Donaldson gave to them.

Although I cannot state what changes Donaldson made in the Wasp chamber at this time, I do know that the length of the case neck was increased about 1/32 inch over that of any previous design. I also know that the method of throating has twice been changed. My first Morgan and Cail Wasp on a Model 70 action employs an entirely different throating than the last rifle they made for me. With this latter rifle, I have made a single ten-shot group at 100 yards which measures only seven-sixteenths inch center to center of the widest shots.

To give the reader some idea of the accuracy which may be obtained with one of the Morgan-Cail Wasp rifles, I mention the following typical test which I made before sitting down to write this. The purpose of the test was to determine the effect of increasing the over-all seating depth of the loaded Wasp cartridge by 1/64 inch. The ammunition consisted of my regular 55 grain bullet, made in an R.C.B.S. swage, 29.5 grains of No. 4320 powder, and the Winchester No. 115 primer. No wad was used; the over-all length of the cartridge was 2 and 17/64 inches. A two- to three-mile nine o'clock wind was blowing when five ten-shot groups were fired from bench rest at 100 yards after one fouling shot. Measuring center to center of the widest shots, the five groups made were: 7/8 inch, 7/8 inch, 9/16 inch, 7/8 inch, and 11/16 inch.

There is no selection of groups here. I have done as well or better, time and time again, with and without witnesses, with my Wasp rifle and with Wasp rifles belonging to others. But I have satisfied myself that the burden of producing consistently small groups from bench rest depends mostly on four factors: First, the accuracy of the rifle being used; second, the uniformity of the ammunition prepared, especially the bullets; third, the use of a good method of resting the rifle; and fourth and least important, the individual himself. I have seen a ten-shot, 100-yard group fired from Dr. E. W. Paine's Donaldson-Wasp rifle by my father, who is well over sixty years old, which measures only one-half inch from center to center of the widest shots.

Since I had owned a number of the very finest Schuetzen rifles, including examples by Pope, Zischang, and Schoyen, and had spent some years in their use, I was naturally curious as to whether or not the Wasp rifles would equal the wonderful accuracy that some of the Schuetzen rifles had given in the past. I was not a little prejudiced in favor of the Schuetzen rifle. However, after careful trial of a number of the Wasp rifles, as made up by Morgan and Cail, I was obliged to admit that there was not one among them which was not able to equal or surpass the best shooting I had ever done with a Schuetzen rifle. Today there is not the slightest question in my own mind that, day-in and day-out, any one of these same Wasp rifles will average considerably better than the best Schuetzen rifle I ever fired.

In order that readers may draw their own conclusions concerning the accuracy of the .219 Donaldson-Wasp rifle made by Morgan and Cail, I list below the size of the first twenty-three test groups fired from three different Donaldson-Wasp rifles. One of these rifles was my own and the other two were made for friends who, after seeing my original Wasp rifle perform, had ordered Wasp rifles for themselves.

Samuel Clark, Jr., of Waterville, Maine, has always been closely associated with H. A. Donaldson, inventor of the Donaldson-Wasp cartridge. In fact, Donaldson has been Clark's instructor in both offhand and rest shooting since Clark took up the rifle.

Clark today is an excellent rest and offhand shooter whose reputation is built on just such deeds as these:

Clark attended the 69th anniversary of the famous 200-yard Free Rifle Match, held on July 14, 1946, at the Walnut Hill, Massachusetts, range. He won that match, shooting thirty shots, offhand for record, with the M70 .219 Donaldson-Wasp, which is hardly a Schuetzen rifle, against the best offhand shooters in the country.

Again, on July 4, 1946, Clark attended the rest and offhand matches held at Lisbon, Connecticut. He entered the rest and offhand matches, and won them easily. In winning the rest match he made twelve three-shot possibles on the 50-meter International target at 100 yards. This rest match has never been won before with more than one possible.

All shooting was done at 100 yards from bench rest using a 20X scope. All groups consisted of ten shots and some were fired at night by lantern light. Powder loads varied from 29½ to 32 grains of du Pont No. 4320 and the Winchester No. 115 primer. All bullets, which were made in my R.C.B.S. bullet swage, measured .224 inch and weighed 55 grains. Groups were measured from center to center of the widest shots.

	Group Number				
Rifle	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1. Samuel Clark, Jr., WASP	5/8	11/16	13/16	11/16	15/16
2. Dr. Edw. Harlow, WASP	7/16	3/4	7/8	11/16	
3. Omer Sawyer, WASP	5/8	15/16	7/8	5/8	3/8

Rifle	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*Av.*
1. Samuel Clark, Jr., WASP	13/16	3/4	13/16	5/8	11/16	.781
2. Dr. Edw. Harlow, WASP						.687
3. Omer Sawyer, WASP	1	7/8	1 1/8	3/4		.909

In July of 1946, the twenty-three groups listed above were sent by Fred Huntington, maker of R.C.B.S. bullet swages, to a member of the NRA staff to illustrate the accuracy of that homemade bullet.

In subsequent correspondence, it was suggested that since many of the groups had been shot by lantern light, unusually fine conditions had been selected for the tests—conditions which might not have prevailed in tests of other wildcat .22 caliber rifles reported.

This seemed most reasonable. When I was invited to accompany Donaldson on a trip to the hunting camp of Byron Cottrell at Galeton, Pennsylvania, where there were assembled a number of expert rest and long-range shots, equipped with the finest custom wildcat rifles in .22, .25, and .270 caliber, I

welcomed the opportunity of shooting my Wasp rifle in competition with other similar rifles. I looked forward to determining, if possible, how far the favorable conditions of the home range influenced the shooting of the three rifles.

While Cottrell and his friends were assembled at the hunting camp, primarily for the purpose of long-range chuck hunting, more time was spent in testing various varmint rifles from bench rest than was spent in the pursuit of varmints.

The average size of groups fired with my Wasp rifle did not suffer from using a bench rest admittedly inferior for finest testing, nor from weather conditions existing at the time that were not perfect.

Groups fired, using the same method of resting used in firing the twenty-three groups mentioned above gave these results: ¾ inch, ⅞ inch, 13/16 inch, ⅞ inch, and 11/16 inch. The average group size was .80 inches at 100 yards.

To see how the trajectory of the .219 Donaldson-Wasp rifle would compare at 500 yards with the trajectory of a .22 Varminter rifle owned by Ray Perrine, we prepared loads consisting of 55 grain cadmium-plated bullets for both rifles. Powder loads of 31 grains of No. 4320 were used for the Wasp and loads of 36½ grains No. 4320 were used for the Varminter. Both rifles have fourteen-inch twists.

Sighting in at 200 yards, the Wasp made a five-shot group at this range, measuring 1 5/16 inches and an eleven-shot group of 4⅞ inches at the 500-yard range. With both rifles zeroed at 200 yards, the Wasp group formed 37½ inches low at 500 yards and the Varminter group 41½ inches low at the same range, although the latter rifle load used 5½ grains more of the same powder. Both rifles were zeroed at 200 yards before firing at 500 yards. The shooting was done with sun in the shooters' eyes and a heavy mirage running, plus a four- to five-mile wind.

The foregoing will clearly show the reader that this Wasp rifle was performing on its own merits without aid of unusual conditions.

Later, while on this same trip, I witnessed a woodchuck killed with a single shot at over 500 yards by Byron Cottrell, using my own Wasp rifle. Ray Perrine, with the same gun, killed a woodchuck after hitting it twice at 450 yards. It should be pointed out that both these shooters were strangers to my rifle, knowing only the proper elevations for the ranges being fired.

There are, no doubt, many shooters who will be interested in learning the trajectory of the .219 Donaldson-Wasp over practical varmint ranges and others who would like to compare it with the varmint rifle which they themselves use. For their convenience, the table below will show both the path of the bullet and the proper sight correction from fifty to 500 yards, with scope sights set to hit on point of aim at 200 yards. The standard load of 31 grains of du Pont No. 4320, 55 grain R.C.B.S. bullet and Winchester No. 115 primer is used:

Range, yards	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500
Location of group from point of aim.....	0	+1"	+1½"	0	−2½"	−7"	−13"	−21½"	−32"	−43½"
Proper sight correction ¼ minute clicks...	0	−4	−2	0	+4	+9	+15	+21	+28	+35

In repeating such tests as the one above to check on the results obtained, I was puzzled to note the wide variation in drop beyond 300 yards from one day to another. For instance, when sighting in at 200 yards, on a very warm clear day, the average drop at 500 yards with the load mentioned is thirty-seven inches, provided there is no wind. However, if we are to judge from the figures above, obtained on a cold damp August day without wind, the drop at this distance is forty-three and one-half inches, a variation of five quarter-minute clicks.

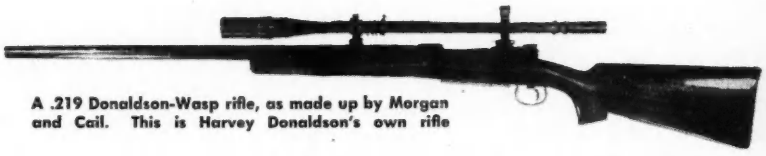
While such a correction for temperature or atmospheric conditions is, no doubt, a routine matter with long-range shots, it was entirely new to me. I doubt if many varmint shooters give it any consideration when attempting shots at these ranges.

These tests having brought out some interesting points, it was now decided to determine if possible which particular shape of bullet being used would hold its elevation best over the longer ranges. It is often stated that the true 8S type of bullet, being more pointed, would show less drop at long ranges than a bullet with a more rounded type of point. This test was suggested by a friend, a mechanical engineer, who pointed out that the forward edge of airplane wings was rounded, rather than being brought to a sharp edge.

Having on hand three R.C.B.S. swages, we made bullets with the points shown in the illustration, and prepared ammunition using bullets of 55 grain weight and powder charges consisting of 31 grains of du Pont No. 4320. Shooting was done with my own Wasp rifle, and all loads were first zeroed at 250 yards and then fired at 400 yards without sight change. With these loads zeroed at 250 yards, the average drop at 400 yards was 14 inches for bullet B, 17 inches with bullet A, and 19 inches with bullet C.

In all shooting to date, using various Wasp rifles, bullet B, with its slightly rounded point, has consistently proved more accurate at all velocities than the other two.

It has been clearly demonstrated that in some instances in the .219 Donaldson-Wasp, a 55 grain bullet will actually show higher velocity than any lighter bullet fired with the same powder charge. The reason for this is that the added weight of the bullet increases the pressure and causes more complete combustion of the powder charge, resulting in higher velocity. Because of this there is no object in using a bullet lighter than 55 grains over ranges in excess of 300 yards. Tests clearly show that lighter bullets starting off at anywhere near the same velocity as the 55 grain bullet lost velocity fast beyond 250 yards.



A .219 Donaldson-Wasp rifle, as made up by Morgan and Cail. This is Harvey Donaldson's own rifle

Similarly, by firing 57 and 60 grain bullets with maximum charges in the Wasp case over all ranges up to 500 yards, it was found that these bullets were too heavy. At the best velocities that they could be driven, they showed a much greater drop beyond 300 yards than did the 55 grain bullets.

Only usage can correctly evaluate the Wasp. However, since bench-rest matches are becoming increasingly popular and provide an excellent opportunity for comparative testing of target and varmint rifles, the .219 Donaldson-Wasp as made up by Morgan and Cail will be in shoulder-to-shoulder competition with other rifles. ♦ ♦ ♦

2-R Lovell Kinks

By HARRY A. BATES

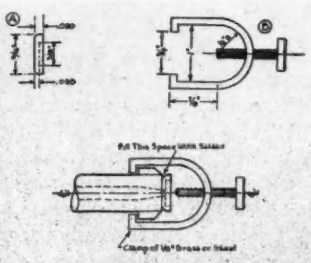


Figure 1: To correct headspace in Hornet rifles chambered for the 2-R Lovell cartridge a small piece (A) cut from drill rod must be soldered on the bolt head. Clamp (B) must be constructed from one-eighth-inch sheet metal to hold this piece in place during soldering

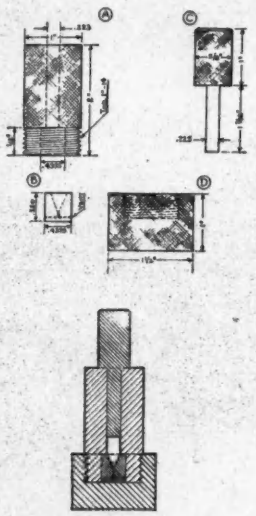


Figure 2: Here are the individual parts, with dimensions, and the assembly of a homemade swage for .22 caliber jacketed bullets

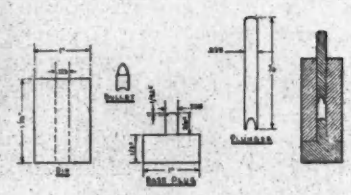


Figure 3: Low-power Lovell cartridges can be loaded with bullets and powder taken from .22 caliber Long Rifle cartridges. However, before loading the bullets pulled from these Long Rifle cartridges, they must be reshaped in a homemade die similar to the one pictured

TWO MAJOR STEPS are necessary to convert bolt-action Hornet rifles for use with the 2-R Lovell cartridges: rechambering the rifle for the larger Lovell cartridge, and adding a small piece to the bolthead to decrease headspace. The chambering itself should be left to someone competent enough to do the job, but any careful workman handy with tools can make the headspace correction.

I corrected the headspace in my 54 Winchester Hornet, which had been chambered to take the 2-R Lovell, by soldering a small piece to the bolthead in the manner described below. Welding, of course, would ruin the heat treatment given the bolt at the factory. Since then it has seen three years' use and is still 100 per cent satisfactory.

Here are the steps to follow:

File .025 inch off the face of the bolt, keeping the face as square as possible. Then from a drill rod turn a piece of metal the same diameter as the bolt, counterbored on one side to take the rim of the 2-R Lovell case. A, in Figure 1, gives the dimensions of this piece. After counterboring, drill a hole through the center which will closely fit the firing pin.

Make the clamp B shown in Figure 1 of one-eighth-inch sheet brass or any other suitable material. This clamp hooks behind the locking lugs on the bolt and holds the bolthead in place while soldering.

Strip the bolt, place piece A in Figure 1 on the head of the bolt, making sure that it fits flat. Insert the firing pin to obtain perfect alignment. Put on the clamp to hold the piece in place. Remove the firing pin and fill the V between the piece and the bolthead with solder.

Remove the ejector from the receiver. Cover the chamber end of the barrel with Prussian blue, and place the bolt in the receiver, closing as far as possible without forcing. Remove the bolt and, using a small, half-round file, file the spots of blue which appear on the bolthead. Keep repeating this process until the bolt will close easily.

Then insert in the chamber a cartridge of medium head thickness. Cover the cartridge head with Prussian blue and close the bolt as far as it will go easily. Remove the bolt and file the spots of blue which appear on the bolthead. Continue this until the bolt closes on the cartridge with a little pressure.

Cut a slot in the bottom of the bolt face for the ejector and, if a repeater, the cam that pushes the cartridge out of the magazine and the lower part of the rim.

Figure 2 shows a homemade swage for .22 caliber jacketed bullets which is serving me very satisfactorily. The material used in constructing this die was carbon tool steel. All necessary dimensions for constructing this swage are given in the drawings.

Piece A is hardened and the hole is lapped to .223-inch diameter. To prevent chipping, the threads, fourteen to the inch, are drawn to a deep purple.

Piece B, which fits in A to form the point of the bullet, must be a perfect fit and absolutely in line. The one I made was handfitted and lapped. The pressure required to swage the bullet is applied by means of plunger C, which is inserted through the top of A. D threads onto the bottom of A and holds B in place. No. 72 drill is used to cut the vent hole through B to permit escape of air and excess lead, making the bullets the same weight and hardness when D is driven all the way into A. A screwdriver slot is cut into the head of D so that it may be turned when lapping the point cavity. All the power I use with this is furnished by a hammer and a screw driver.

During the war when bullets and powder were hard to obtain, I used a low-power load made from ordinary .22 Long Rifle ammunition. I pulled the bullets from the cartridges with a pair of pliers having a cavity in their nose made with a 7/32 drill. These were reformed using the die shown in Figure 3. If you do not want to make a die, cut the bullets off with a small hacksaw blade and file the brass left on them flush with the base.

Dump the powder from two .22 cartridges into each primed Lovell case. Then seat the bullets about three-sixteenths-inch deep, greasing them afterwards.

This load gave me three-quarter-inch ten-shot groups at fifty yards, penetrating five and seven-eighths-inch pine boards at that distance. ♦ ♦ ♦

Inletting for Accuracy

By MORGAN HOLMES

ACCURACY WITH ANY RIFLE is dependent upon many factors, the quality of the barrel and action, the ammunition used in it, the sights on it—and, while hunting or in competition on the rifle range, the ability of the shooter.

A good shooter may own the best rifle obtainable and still not get the accuracy he desires from it because of one thing, the bedding of that barrel and action in the stock.

Since many gun owners are now restocking good Enfield rifles, let us look closely at bedding. Good accuracy can be obtained with any good rifle by one or more systems of bedding. But to get the very finest accuracy out of a barrel and action, it is necessary to determine by experimenting just what bed a particular combination needs to "get in the groove." For example, two Model 70 Winchesters were brought to the shop about a year ago, one because of a varying point of impact, and the other because it grouped over two and a half inches at 100 yards. Both rifles were rebedded the same way.

After the rebedding they were tested in a bench rest. The rifle which originally had a changing point of impact grouped nicely under one inch in the tests and has performed very satisfactorily ever since. The other rifle, bedded the same way, was still grouping in about two inches. By gradually reducing the pressure of the forearm against the barrel and testing on the range as the work proceeded, it was finally finished up with the barrel full floating, that is, with no contact between barrel and wood. Both barrels were originally rebedded with as much wood touching or gripping the barrels as was possible, resulting in considerable pressure against the barrel close to the tip of the forearm. Known as the fully bedded method, this is usually recommended for light barrels, since as a rule they do give their best performance when so bedded. Both these rifles had standard Model 70 barrels and both were chambered for the Lovell cartridge.

Here we have two rifles as identical as possible as far as barrels and receivers go. Yet one is fully bedded and the other is full floating. Both rifles are still shooting one-inch groups and have done so after over a year of shooting with the usual changes in weather and temperature.

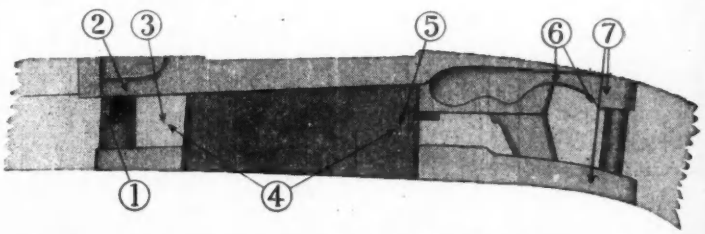
With the thought in the back of our minds that to get the full benefit of bedding, some experimenting may be necessary, we can take a look at the part of the job that should always be done exactly the same way for assured results. That is the bedding of the action which, fortunately, is by far the biggest part of the job. By being precise in this work and following the prescribed method excellent results will be obtained without further touching up of the action mortise, leaving the barrel channel a more or less cut-and-dry problem.

Generally speaking, an action should be as solidly bedded in the wood as possible, but this rigidity must be accomplished without stress or strain. The recoil shoulder (1), the flat of the receiver behind the shoulder (2), the rear receiver tang (6), and the magazine and guard screws must all be positioned to support one another. By correct positioning, strength is given to each individual part and to the complete assembly. Any slight misalignment of any part will be sufficient to set up strains.

The recoil shoulder must be seated against the wood solidly across its full surface. To check that it is properly seated, put the barrel and receiver in the stock and hold the guard in place. Do not insert the guard screws. Attach a clamp to hold the receiver and guard together. Then cut a small piece of wood, short enough to leave the hole for the guard screw open, to put between the clamp and the guard tang in front of the magazine. A piece of paper can be placed between the receiver ring and the other end of the clamp to avoid marring the bluing. Draw them together just tight enough to put a little bind between the receiver and the wood. With everything in place, rest the muzzle against a solid piece of wood and drive the stock forward with a light tap of a mallet or the heel of your hand on the butt end of the stock. Then, drop the front guard screw in the hole.

If it threads easily, without any bind, the recoil shoulder is fitted solidly against the wood.

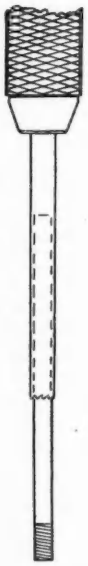
If the screw binds or does not start at all, insert paper or cardboard shims between the recoil shoulder and the wood until the guard screw enters freely. When the screw does enter easily, the shims should be replaced by a metal abutment plate. If a plate of this kind is found necessary, it should be made a little wider than the flat of the stock just behind the shoulder, then inletted into the sides for added strength to take up recoil.



The guard screws must be at direct right angles to the flat behind the shoulder. To check this, clean off the flat so that the marks left by lampblack will show. Cover the flat bottom of the receiver behind the shoulder with lampblack ground in oil. A thin even coat is enough. Assemble the rifle and draw up the guard screws. Take the rifle out of the stock and note the telltale marks left on the flat by the lampblack, which should be even over the entire surface and show no more impression at one point than at another. If it is not even, make it so by very carefully scraping down the high spots. Do not forget to drive the stock forward against the recoil shoulder before tightening the guard screws each time the rifle is assembled. If this is neglected, the shoulder will probably be driven back gradually by recoil, causing a constant change of

the center of impact as long as any further backward movement is possible.

Once the front end of the receiver has been taken care of, reassemble as before, and draw up fairly tight on the front guard screw. If the rear guard screw can be turned in freely then, we are lucky. Check the seat for the rear tang of the receiver to be sure it seats evenly in the wood, using the lampblack in the same way we did in checking the flat behind the recoil shoulder. A light impression from the lampblack along the thin edge of the stock between the rear of the front flat and the rear tang will indicate a good job. This fit should not be so tight that it upsets the true flats under the recoil shoulder and the rear tang. If the rear screw binds before being drawn tight, locate where it rubs in the hole through the stock and file that spot until the screw turns in freely.



Holes for guard screw bushings can be bored accurately, using a rod threaded the same as the guard screws to guide a tubular drill.

Other flats that must fit correctly are the sides of the rear tang of the receiver and the guard (7). The stock can be relieved slightly behind the tang if desired without bad effects, but it is not necessary if the recoil shoulder is fitted as explained. There is, however, no room for any slope between the sides of the tang and the stock. To explain this fit properly, we might say it cannot fit so tightly that it may cause a split when the screws are drawn up; but there should be no movement to the tang.

The function of the magazine in relation to bedding is merely one of support. But this support, which we must have, cannot in any way upset the firm and stress-free bedding of the receiver. The magazine must fit tight in back of the flat behind the recoil shoulder (3) to support the wood as it is pounded by recoil. To do this properly it not only must fit tight at the forward end but also at the rear (5). If no support is given the magazine at the ends, all the recoil will have to be absorbed by the small piece of wood left between the recoil shoulder and the cut made for the magazine, which is not strong enough to take it.

The situation is quite different when the magazine is butted against the stock, since the small bit of wood in back of the shoulder is supported by the magazine. The curved corners of the magazine should be relieved slightly or they may cause splits (4). An action bedded with this support needs no recoil bolt or any other strengthening device. If the wood is sound and the bedding correct, any of our calibers can be fired without further thought as to stock cracks.

These are the basic principles of good bedding as far as the action goes. Further support and rigidity can and should be obtained by so carefully inletting the action that all metal under the stock line is touched by wood. Any contact between wood and metal will add strength. However, this contact cannot have any spot touching solidly enough to upset the cardinal points of the bedding. In other words, perfection would be to have almost black marks from the lampblack at the face of the recoil shoulder, on the flat behind the shoulder, and underneath and on the sides of all tangs, with all other wood in the mortise showing a light gray stain.

To do this is a very painstaking job and calls for patience few of us mortals possess. I'm glad to be able to say with confidence that perfection to this degree in bedding is not necessary for excellent results. With the action bedded carefully at the important points we have discussed, you have every reason to expect excellent results from your work.

Now, let's consider getting the barrel bedded so that it lets the combination perform at its best. There are two forces, both with no good inclinations, and the method of making one behave is in contrast to the other. One is barrel vibration. Vibration is caused by the blow struck the barrel when the cartridge is fired. The amount of vibration imparted to a barrel varies with different calibers and with various bullet weights, powder charges, and bullet shapes. The weight of the barrel is also an important factor. The remedy for barrel vibration is to arrange the bedding so that the fore-end exerts pressure against the barrel, thereby deadening the vibration.

The second factor is the effect of warpage, shrinkage, and twisting of the fore-end wood upon the barrel; the effect of variations in sling tension; and the effect of pressures upon the barrel resulting from the different positions we are obliged to assume in shooting. As a rule, the cure for these troubles is to keep the wood away from the barrel. You see, we have two sets of headaches. The cure for one is directly opposite to the cure for the other.

As for bedding, the most accurate rifle should be the one with the heaviest barrel and the lightest cartridge. With a heavy barrel, vibration is reduced to the point where no deadening effect from the fore-end is necessary and consequently the barrel can be bedded full floating. When I build a rifle that's going to need gilt-edge accuracy to be of any use, I use a heavy barrel and a full-floating bed. I have very little respect for wood staying put. The best blank possible to get out of a tree is going to move. It may move very little, but be sure it will move. I don't like the pressure of the fore-end on the barrel changing with the weather. After testing many rifles and different beds, I am a firm believer in that full-floating barrels perform better from various positions than any others, and are less affected by sling pull.

All these remarks are of a general nature. Any set rule we might make would only be broken by the exception. Full-floating beds can be carried too far. When barrel vibration can cause more error than the slight uneven pressure of the wood moving in a full-floating stock, the value of full-floating beds is lost. Then better results can be had with the barrel bedded tightly. I believe a rifle will have its best chance to shoot well when just enough pressure is used against the barrel to offset unreasonable vibration.

Strictly speaking, none of my stocks are entirely full floating. I include about four inches of the barrel just in front of receiver as part of the action and bed it as snug as possible without disturbing the seating of the guard screws. This helps to root the action solidily in the stock, which is vital.

When making a stock for a rifle with any barrel lighter than bull variety, it is best to bed the barrel with good contact all along the channel, with the greatest pressure just back of the fore-end tip. The sides of the channel should grip the barrel and have a tendency to hold on to it when the barrel is removed

from the stock. If the rifle shoots to suit you with this bedding, everything is fine; if not, it is a simple matter to relieve the bedding gradually, testing between each change.

It is much easier to make a fully bedded job full floating than it is to rebed a barrel full length once the channel has been opened. If you have a rifle that is fully bedded and not shooting to suit you, remove it from the stock and insert paper shims of different thicknesses between the flat behind the recoil shoulder and the receiver and under the rear tang of the receiver. By doing this you may be able to tell what effect opening the channel will have, and it may save you a lot of work.

I never use barrel bands of any sort except on very light stocks that may be subjected to very hard use. I do not believe in complicating the bedding or giving the stock or barrel any more reason to kick off the traces than is required. Adjustable barrel bands are useless gadgets on any stock that is hand bedded for a particular rifle. If a band must be used, be sure that it does not bend the barrel or put some of those strains on the bedding which we have worked so hard to keep out. Any band must be supported in the stock directly beneath it so that no springing tendency is possible. Guard screw bushings are not essential but are often wanted. To be of any use at all, they must fit snugly in the stock and be set in perfect alignment so they will not cause trouble. This can be a very difficult job; it can be an almost impossible job in a small shop if the correct methods are not used.

After the barrel and action are about bedded, the bushings are ready to go in. First, you should make up a tool for the job. Take a piece of drill rod the same diameter as the guard screw and about three or four inches long. Turn a thread on one end the same size as the thread of the guard screw. This thread must be a close fit in the receiver, since any play in the rod will ruin the job. The rod must also be straight and the threads true to the axis of the rod. Eccentricity is sure to make the hole cockeyed. Next, a piece of tubing will be needed. The inside diameter of the tubing must be the same size as the outside diameter of the drill rod or guard screw. The outside diameter of the tubing should be a trifle smaller than the outside diameter of the bushing. Cut the tubing about five inches long. True one end and file straight-pointed teeth on it. Stone off any burrs which the file may throw up over the outside diameter of the tubing. It takes a little while to make up these tools, but they so simplify the actual boring that a slip of any kind is hardly possible. The tools will bore a true hole without any danger of ruining the stock.

The actual boring is easy. Assemble the rifle and set in one guard screw, being sure to drive the stock forward as mentioned before so that the recoil shoulder is up tight against the wood. Turn the drill rod into the receiver through the open guard screw hole and set it tight, but be careful not to bend it. Chuck the tubing in a breast drill and slide it over the drill rod. Turn this tube slowly, raising the saw often and blowing out the sawdust. It is wise to check the size of the hole the saw is cutting before using, to be sure the bushing will fit properly. It should be necessary to drive the bushing into the hole.

If everything is properly done, no touching up of the hole will be needed. Make sure that the bushing is short enough to allow the receiver and guard to take their original seats against the stock. Also, keep the guard screws tight at all times. You will find that a screw driver must be ground to fit the screw slots so they may be drawn up tightly without ruining the screwheads. ◆ ◆ ◆

MILITARY RIFLEMEN IN 1811

Riflemen are employed to scour woods; skirmish in front and on the flanks and masque maneuvers of the line; possess eminences, woods, and broken grounds; line hedges, ditches, stone walls, and other fences; gall and annoy an enemy on the march; form ambuscades, &c. They may also be employed to attack in a body, without the aid of other troops, either at long shot or in a close charge with the bayonet; but their peculiar excellence consists in firing at a distance, and where the common musket will do but little execution.

The importance of these troops is now generally acknowledged, and in addition to light infantry corps, riflemen under the names of *sharp-shooters, tirailleurs, chafeurs, voltigers, eclaireurs,* and *yagers,* according to the service on which they are employed, are introduced into most of the armies of Europe.

Previous to the war of the revolution in America, the service of these troops was little known in Europe. In that war the British had a corps of German yagers or riflemen; in the American army we had several corps, and the militia from the back parts of the middle and southern states were principally armed with rifles. In broken and covered grounds, these troops were found to be very serviceable, and their destructive fire from behind trees, logs, stones, fences, and other covers, were the cause of several important victories over the British.

. . . The non-commissioned officers and privates of rifle corps are to be armed with good rifle guns, the barrel of which should be from three to three and an half feet in length, and always kept brown. . . . The size most suitable for a military rifle is from twenty-five to thirty balls to the pound, and these will project a ball three hundred yards with the requisite precision. A larger size will throw a ball to a greater distance, but they are too heavy for dexterous management. . . . To the rifle should be fitted a bayonet, which should be so constructed that it may be used as such, or separately as a sword, as circumstances may require.—PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MILITARY OFFICERS, BY E. HOYT, GREENFIELD, PRINTED BY JOHN DENIO, 1811.

A POSTHUMOUS REPRINT OF

SAGA OF A SPRINGFIELD

By GERALD AVERILL

IF YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE ultra superspeed handloaders who demands and gets 4,000 feet per second and groups measuring one inch per 100 yards up to 600, just turn to the next article. This one is not for you.

To set things straight in the beginning, let me state that the only efficient handload ever developed and used by me consisted of about four drams of black powder (no Cream of Wheat or Post Toasties) behind seven cast-iron sleigh-bell clappers. This charge, carefully segregated by wads of the best felt cut from an old pair of larrigans and encased in a 12 gauge brass

shell, proved to be, in the words of the vernacular, "the berries." Just thirty-two years ago come next November, I squinted down the barrel of an old single Iver Johnson Champion, shut both eyes and presented a very fine buck with that load of loot filched from the bells of my grandfather's pung, and, gentlemen, believe me, a buck with a snootful of iron bell clappers feels just exactly as bad as if he had been overtaken with a .267 something-or-other O'Neil-Dubiel-Keith-Magnum-Deluxe-Duplex with solid-gold bearing bands and platinum gas checks.

Now that we have the background we can proceed with the story—a story about a rifle. In the beginning it hung upon a panel in the dining room. There were a lot of other guns along with it in 1919, and with the sling and bayonet attached, it served merely as a souvenir and an ornament. Don't ask me how it got there because I can't remember back that far. Maybe it followed me home from the South Carolina Campaign or perhaps, like Topsy, it just grew. Anyway it was a good Springfield with a lovely pull.

You remember how things were just after the war. It didn't work out so well for some of us and after a while the other guns disappeared one by one and it hung there alone. It hung there until a certain cold November evening with a hint of snow in the air when it was taken down in desperation, cleaned, oiled, and made ready for use. There were quite a lot of old 1918 loads with the cupronickel jackets that followed along with the gun, poor game loads to be sure, but much better than nothing, and the next morning at daybreak there were four inches of soft snow on the ground.

If you've ever hunted when you really needed meat, you'll know it's tough going. You're overstrung, you creep and sneak and send the scent of murder far ahead of you. It's exhausting work when you're floundering around in slippery snow in a pair of broken-down, mail-order leather shoes and soaked to the hide with the icy drip from trees and brush. I stopped around noon at the crest of an open hardwood ridge to light the half of a cigarette that I had saved since breakfast, and while I fumbled for a dry match, a spikehorn broke from behind a boulder and bounced down the slope. I dropped the smoke, swung the rifle to the front and finally got the safety off just as he turned broadside to me and stopped about 120 paces below. The sight was down and I had no time to tip it up so I lined up on what I thought was halfway up the front leg and let go with the battle sight.

Now I had been told times enough that the 150 grain service bullet would not open, it would simply punch a .30 caliber hole right through one side and out the other, so I was entirely unprepared for what happened. That bullet landed in a cloud of deer hair and down went the buck, flatter than Mussolini's African campaign. I don't know just what happened, whether the slug keyholed, tumbled, or struck base first. Anyway it landed high up on the right shoulder, ripped diagonally down through the chest cavity and came out under the opposite shoulder, leaving a hole larger than a silver dollar.

That gun became famous during the following summer. I had several windfalls of ammunition come to me and I used a lot of it. Give a man a good Springfield, even as-issued, an almost unlimited supply of hulls and he can learn a lot about shooting, especially when he has a whole mountain to shoot over. Granite backstops to mark long-range hits and a couple of miles of mud flats at low tide, solitude, and something to shoot at all the time! Well, it will serve to pass the time away even if it's not as good as a job with a steady income.

When fall came, not a crow would light on that mountain. I had the whole area plotted like the entrance to Gibraltar, and the range marks on that old ladder sight were absolutely true. I shot a number of geese and ducks on the river and when the deer season approached I invested in a box of 180 grain Western open points and sighted in with them. With the U-notch on the 200-yard line, I could keep my shots in the black of a standard fifty-yard pistol target at 100 yards and that was good enough. I went deer hunting.

There was a log pile and back of it a long open meadow. We sat on the logs, three of us, and talked of this and that, in the pale November sun. It was hard hunting. A rain had come followed by a quick freeze and you could hear a man coming through the frozen leaves half a mile away. We set and chewed tobacco and grumbled, and then I happened to glance behind me across the open field. I looked again and the buck stepped out from the dark of the pines and stood motionless. He froze for a moment and then he must have heard something behind him, for he turned quartering away from us and all I could see was a glimmer of white belly and the white flare of his flag. I slid off my log and into the prone position as he turned and a voice behind me said, "You're crazy, you'll never make it. It's ninety rods across there. I measured it once."

So I set the U at 500, put the blade on that tail, moved it ahead a little, and touched her off. I got a beautiful belt in the chops, due to the position I was in, but the buck was down behind, his spine smashed about halfway between the rump and the shoulders.

The next year I stripped off some of the iron and did kind of a homemade restocking job. No receiver sights as yet, but what I did was a big improvement. I had much less time to hunt as I was working, but a few days after the open season, I fed the old girl a clip of Western 150 grain open points and cut down on a big doe standing at about fifty yards. The blade front sight had been replaced with a fine gold bead, and when it settled on her right shoulder I squeezed and at the report I saw the leg on the opposite side fly up over her neck. She went down in front, but gathered her hind legs under her and skidded into the brush out of sight. There was a great pool of blood in the snow and a piece of brisket as big as my hand, so I didn't worry any about her going far. While I was looking at the results of my shot, a wild-eyed farmer charged down on me blubbering that I had shot his deer that he had been following all day, so I let him finish her off and claim her on his license as I didn't want to fill mine just then. I took a hindquarter and a loin for my share and was glad I did when I saw what was left of the forequarters after skinning. Both shoulders were smashed and blood settled, and the meat was driven full of bone splinters.

I killed my buck a few days after with a 220 grain soft point. It cut the heart nearly in two, went clean through without spoiling much meat, but the deer ran nearly a hundred yards into a tangle of blowdowns. It was one heck of a job getting him out alone.

Now, one would think from reading the better-known sport-

GERALD AVERILL, 1896-1946

Gerry Averill, whose simple, humorous writings had endeared him to RIFLEMAN readers, and whose backwoods style must be considered as a definite contribution to outdoor literature, will write no more for American sportsmen. Gerry died of a lingering illness at his home in Winterport, Maine, December 4.

Born and raised in Maine, the locale of his writings, Averill spent his entire life in the outdoors. From his first job as woods clerk and construction clerk on dam and logging operations for a paper company, he enlisted as a private in the Army in 1917, was discharged nineteen months later as a regimental sergeant major. His next job was as field representative for Western Cartridge before, in 1933, he took his last job as game warden in the state's Department of Inland Fisheries and Game.

ing magazines that the .30-'06 is now just a little better than obsolete. Maybe it is but when you have one gun that will handle about twelve different commercial loads and God knows how many different combinations of handloads, it seems to me that some of our so-called improvements are a little farfetched. I think I have used about every commercial load that is commonly sold over the counter, and some of them have certain drawbacks that must be taken into consideration. One summer I used the Winchester 150 grain umbrella point on chucks. It was a honey for that kind of shooting. Very accurate, mild recoil, and at 100 yards, which is about my limit with iron sights on small objects, it would fairly lift a chuck off a rock and turn him inside out. I liked it very much so I took it with me down into the southern part of Hancock County where there are some big bogs and burns, on a deer hunt.

Now I realize that 99 per cent of eastern deer are killed within fifty yards. Don't take my word for it, you can read about it in any sporting periodical, *but* there is a lot of good, open, long-range shooting in Maine regardless of what you read or what anyone tells you. Anyway, on this trip I caught a buck flat-footed right out in an open bog and opened up on him at about 300 yards. I had a good receiver sight on the rifle and as he ran quartering away from me, I gave him a full clip before he got out of sight around a point. I was sure I had landed at least one bullet on him and I found him all right after half a day's search. Two of those 150 grains had connected in a good place well up in front but they went right through without opening up at all. They would probably have wrecked him properly at 200, but over that—well, there was the evidence.

I tried the Remington 110 grain Hi-Speed load but could not get even fair accuracy out of it. No doubt it would shoot in some rifles but not in mine. In fact, I never did have much luck with the extremely stepped-up loads, and the only deer I ever lost because of a bullet blowing up in brush was the result of experimenting with the Remington 150 grain, 3,000-foot load. The bullet connected with a small spruce about an inch in diameter and when it got to the deer, it was just so much bird shot. I know because I downed him with a 180 grain open point a few days later and when I skinned him out I found some small pieces of jacket under the hide next to his ribs.

That same year a friend of mine made the mistake of using the Western 220 grain with the short exposed point on deer. This bullet was intended for much tougher and heavier game and was purposely designed for delayed expansion. It was sold over the counter in Maine as a deer load, however, and for one season at least it caused a lot of cussing. That long, heavy bullet would walk right through all right, but it didn't throw much blood and a lot of deer got away because of it.

The last two deer killed with my old gun went down with regular, 172 grain, service loads planted in their bosoms. You file the points down to where the lead core shows through, smooth them up neatly, and, mister, you've got something! At ordinary hunting ranges these doctored bullets will mess things up considerably, and one of them planted too far back is apt to spoil the best part of the meat. If you're not entirely satisfied with the carnage, file the next ones down a little more and use a breast drill a little. You'll be surprised and so will whatever it connects with.

All good things must end. A couple of years ago while shooting at small rocks imbedded in the sides of a gravel pit, my shots began to go wild and a paper test proved conclusively that the old barrel was gone. I don't know how many service loads passed through it, but I know of 4,000 with cupronickel jackets that I used myself, add another 2,000 of the later gilded jackets and 500 commercial loads, and that's about what I managed to burn up personally. The gun was far from new when it came to me, but I know I had more pleasure from it than most men get from even the finest and most expensive rifles.

They say that when a man begins to dwell on the past instead of looking forward to the future, he is getting old. Possibly my ideas are as obsolete as that old Springfield, but when I look back over an average of a deer a year for eighteen years, and most of them killed with one shot, I'm inclined to wonder just why anyone would want a better rifle except perhaps from the gun crank's experimental angle. Of course, I'd like some of the new ones to play with, but if I could make a wish right now and have it come true, I'd like to go right back to the morning I took that old relic down off the wall, and begin all over again. ◆ ◆ ◆

NRA SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MAJOR QUESTIONS in a transitional period will come up for consideration this month as NRA Directors and Special Committees meet in Washington's Statler Hotel to review the greatest year in National Rifle Association history from a standpoint of growth, and to lay plans for an even more promising future. The occasion is the 76th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, February 7.

Heading the docket in an unusually busy week will be the first meetings of two special committees set up by direction of the Executive Committee to survey present regulations governing the target sports. On Wednesday and Thursday, February 5 and 6, the small bore rifle panel, headed by Ransford D. Triggs, and the pistol group, under the chairmanship of Tom Parks, will begin their studies into possible modification of the two sports with the view of increasing participation. Guiding the committees in their initial sessions will be returns from the first of a series of questionnaires to NRA members asking for opinions on a variety of competitive subjects. These questionnaires were sent to all members on NRA competitive lists early in January.

As in past years, one of the highlights of the occasion will be the annual banquet in honor of the visiting Directors, followed on Saturday morning by a meeting of the Executive Committee. ◆ ◆ ◆

Kitchen Mechanic Remodeling

By H. V. STENT

MOST MEN BUY such clumsy military arms as the Enfield rifle because they are cheap. What can they do, with limited funds and facilities, to make them into sporting rifles?

The work required to do this job can be divided into four parts: Fore-end, stock, metal work, and sights. The first two of these can be eliminated by buying a ready-made stock which can be fitted with a few hours' work. But most of the boys prefer to "roll their own" creations out of the original military stock. Let's consider doing that.

Shaping the fore-end is simple enough. Just saw it off—a hack saw will splinter it less than a hand-saw—to the length you desire and shape to suit your taste. Some leave a long fore-end, so they can use the lower metal band to hold the stock to the barrel, and achieve a semimilitary effect. But most shorten it more to reduce weight.

The usual sporting length for the fore-end is sixteen to nineteen inches from the trigger, depending on where you can miss the holes that are hollowed out inside. Round off the end and shape it as you wish. Usually some kind of band or bolt to hold the fore-end to the barrel is recommended. Since the barrel is supposed to be full floating, most of the boys just screw a sling swivel into the fore-end and let it go at that.

Both appearance and shooting comfort require that the comb of the stick be built up at least an inch; many would like a pistol grip, also. A quick and simple solution is to plane off the already-flat top of the Enfield butt enough to fit a piece of matching wood on top of it, running from the grip back to about an inch from the end of the butt. Shape the comb on the front of your inlet, and its rear end somewhat similarly, and presto! you have the comfort of a high comb against the cheek without the bother of fitting a new buttplate.

My private opinion of this, though, is that it looks like an improvised job, and, having the same three-and-one-half-inch drop at heel as the original model, kicks just as much. A better-looking, much more finished job is achieved by removing the steel butt-plate, sawing enough off the top of the stock to get to its widest part, sawing another inch off the bottom (see Figure 1), and then inletting a big-enough piece of matching wood on top to lift the entire stock some two inches.

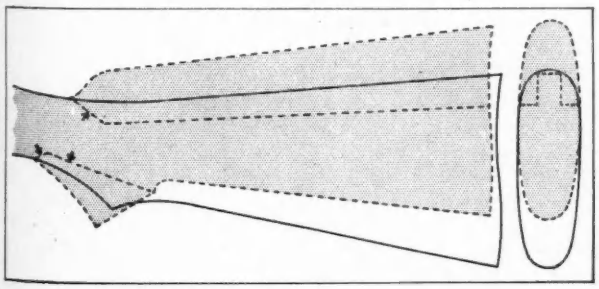
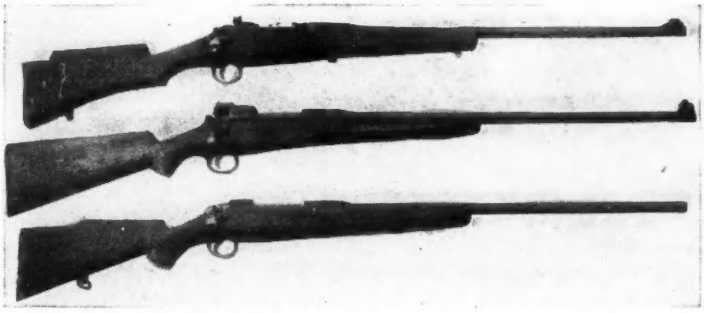


Figure 1: A method of inletting the cheekpiece

Inletting is not difficult, but does demand care. Have your inlet piece plenty big—say two inches square for the stock top—and plane off the two surfaces to be fitted until a steel square shows them perfectly flat and true. Then hold them together against a strong light to find the high spots, and plane these down gently until you cannot see light between the two pieces anywhere. When you are completely satisfied with the fit, glue the pieces lightly and clamp them together until set.



Three remodeled Enfields showing different types of alterations: (top) with fore-end shortened, sights cut down, and cheekpiece glued on original issue stock; (center) with fore-end shortened, complete cheekpiece mounted, and pistol grip shaped on an original military stock; (bottom) with complete new stock, and sights cut off ready for mounting of whatever type the owner desires

It will help to anchor your inlet if you make the front end of the cut at an angle. Some, also, drill corresponding holes in stock and inlet, and glue dowels in them for extra strength. On mine I merely put a wood screw up through the stock and inlet from the hole in the butt.

Don't shape your inlet at all until *after* it is set solidly in place, no matter how clumsy it looks. When ready for the whittling, you'll find a spokeshave, followed by a wood rasp, of immense value.

Dimensions to aim at for a good sporter stock are considered to be one and five-eighths inches at comb—or less if the bolt will clear it—by two and one-half or two and five-eighths inches at heel, measured from line of sights. So, figure out your sight line and work from that, remembering it is better to make your stock too high than too low. Also, a thick comb is more comfortable than a thin one, and the front of the comb should be just far enough back for you to put your hand around the grip in comfort. On my own production the base of the comb starts two and one-half inches back of the upper tang.

A popular treatment of the grip in this section of the backwoods is to pare it down to a more graceful size—about five inches circumference is recommended—and then to shape that homely bump on the bottom of the Enfield stock into something looking like a pistol grip. It's much too far back to be practical, however, and to my notion a restocker should either cut it off altogether and make a decent straight grip, or else inlet a pistol grip.

Both the fitting and the shaping are tricky little jobs. You have to make the cut for it deep enough into the wood of the original stock to its full width, so that your grip may be of the proper size. Yet you don't want to cut deep enough to weaken the stock. By slanting the ends of the cut, as in

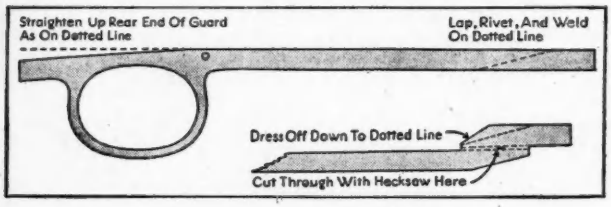

Straighten Up Rear End Of Guard As On Dotted Line
Lap, Rivet, And Weld On Dotted Line
Dress Off Down To Dotted Line
Cut Through With Hacksaw Here

Figure 2: Trigger guard alteration

Figure 1, you can help the glue hold it in place. I also made one side of the slot in my stock wider than the other and cut the inlet with a taper, so that it could be driven in to a tight, wedging fit.

When finished, your pistol grip should project about one and one-half inches below the straight line from trigger guard to toe of butt, and its forward edge should measure about three and one-half inches from the trigger. Work with these measurements in mind when shaping it. Curve the grip to fit both the size of your hand and your sense of beauty, and shape its lines, especially the lower, with care, using chisel, gouges, and rasp. A well-shaped pistol grip has much to do with the appearance of your stock.

Length of stock should average around thirteen and one-half inches to fit most men, measuring from trigger to center of buttplate. Be careful to saw off the rear end of the butt at the proper angle, so that when you stand the finished rifle with its buttplate flat on the floor and its breech touching a wall, the muzzle will be about three inches away from the wall—in other words, a three-inch pitch. Buttplates are supposed to be five and one-eighth by one and five-eighths, but a little smaller size doesn't matter. Horn or hard rubber, corrugated, is best. I like them with enough of a hollow in the middle to fit the shoulder when shooting offhand. When fitting the buttplate, be careful never to bring any cutting tool or rasp across the end of the butt *out* to its edge; always work *in* from the edges. Otherwise the end-grain wood will splinter.

With stock and fore-end shaped, and the old surface everywhere removed, you need only do a little rounding off of the blunt lines around the magazine and trigger guard, and your stock will be ready to finish. Go over it with several grades of sandpaper, coarse to fine, using it over a wooden block to keep the surface flat and even. It takes a lot of sanding to produce the required smoothness. Even after you've got it smooth it's wise to roughen the wood again by wetting and drying it quickly, then sanding down again. Repeat this till whiskers will no longer grow with wetting.

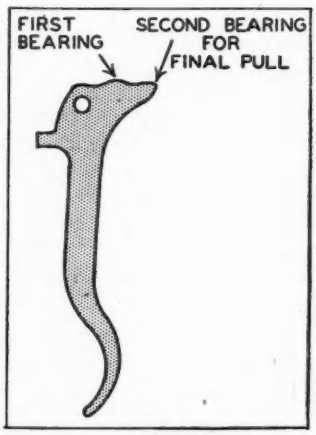
Now, if your stock is the usual walnut, you can give it a fine and durable oil finish by rubbing in with your hand repeated coats of warm linseed oil. Two parts raw linseed oil and one part turpentine, heated to the boiling point when mixed, is recommended. If your stock wood is too light in color, boil one-half ounce of alkanet root in four ounces turpentine, mix it with thirty-two ounces of boiled linseed oil, and apply the mixture hot; it will darken and redden the wood. Mahogany oil stain applied before oil finishing will also darken the wood. If you end up with a sticky coat of oil on your stock that won't soak in, rub it hard with rottenstone on an oil-moistened rag until you get a dull polish.

Metal work, for amateurs, is pretty well limited to the two most necessary jobs on an Enfield; straightening out that crooked trigger guard to improve the rifle's lines, and changing that infernal long trigger pull so that it does not take, as did one of mine, seven distinct pressures to release the final pull.

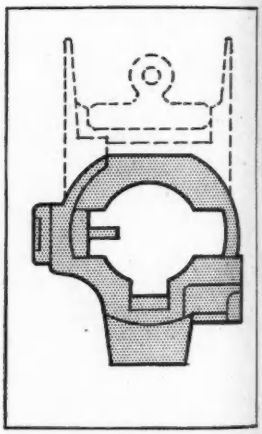
The front end of the trigger guard must be cut through at the hump (see Figure 2). Be sure your welder is skillful enough to do a good job of this small work, and be sure also that he measures the distance between bolt holes in the rifle stock itself before welding, in order to get the length right. You can probably get the same man to heat and straighten the trigger guard where it is bent in the middle.

Two more things must be done to finish this job. The magazine must be ground down about one-eighth inch on the bottom at the front end, slanting back to practically nothing off at the rear; one-eighth inch is also filed off the projecting seams in front of the magazine box. Secondly, the front end of the straightened trigger guard will not now bed against the wood around the front bolt hole, and it is advisable to fit in a piece of sheet cork to make everything snug.

Do you want to blue the bottom of the trigger guard now, where the welding removed the finish? Grind it smooth and bright, then simply heat it in a forge or fire, blowtorch, or on a very hot stove, until it is the desired darkness, and let it cool. Or, you can heat the metal, plunge it into clean lubricating oil, light the oil and burn it off, repeating this process until you get the color you want.



The second bearing on the trigger, which gives the hard military pull, can be honed down for a shorter, easier second pull, lengthening the first



This sketch indicates how the ungainly Enfield rear sight should be cut off for mounting a sight with windage and elevation

When you have unpinned and taken out the trigger assembly, you'll notice on top of the trigger the little hump that is the first bearing met when the trigger is pulled, giving the easy first stage of the military pull. The second, or hard stage, comes when the heel of the trigger behind the hump bears against the receiver. If you hone down this latter bearing,

(Continued on page 38)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RIFLE FOR BIG GAME

Brown Bros.

By S. R. TRUESDELL

PART III—1892 TO 1905 —THE SMALL BORES

ONLY IN THE LAST 150 years has big-game hunting come within the reach of the common man. It was brought about by the development of the rifle.

To meet the needs of the hunting fields and to give the hunter a better opportunity for a kill, the early, crude muzzle-loading rifles and smoothbores of large caliber were constantly subjected to trial-and-error tests which led to better control of the energy generated by the burning of the gunpowder. With increased control of the energy, higher bullet velocity, and increased striking power were possible, resulting in guns of medium bore, shooting conical bullets. Further improvements led to bolt-action, magazine-fed military rifles of still smaller bore. Adaptation of this weapon to sporting uses gave the hunter a lighter, handier gun which fired small-bore ammunition at extremely high velocity—further improving his chances for a kill.

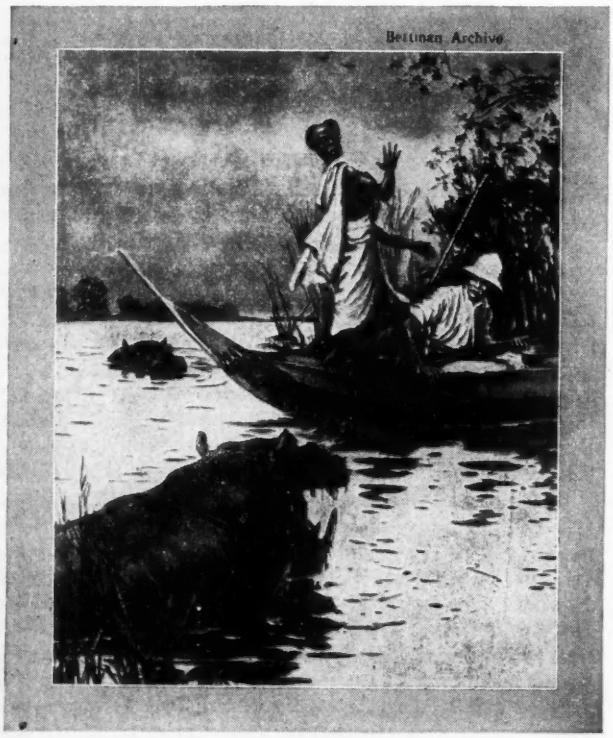
It is difficult for an American to realize that although he has participated in the development of the hunting rifle, it is not an American development. The bolt-action rifle which he uses so generally today because of its strength and accuracy was of European origin, first tested and tried in the game fields of Europe, Asia, and Africa. It was a foregone conclusion that as the need arose for rifles of greater range and accuracy than the hinged double-barrel, these rifles would incorporate some rigid-framed breech action that would closely support the cartridge. This was found in the single-shot, falling-block action, of which we had several, and in the Mauser or Mannlicher turning bolt action, of which we had none. Finding that the single and double rifles of 4 to 16 bore which used round balls were greatly inferior to the medium bores which used conical bullets, the rifleman was looking for further improvement. This he found in the still smaller bores made possible by better steel, smokeless powder, and jacketed bullets in the bolt- or falling-block action.

England had long had a falling-block action in the Farquharson, but the bolt action came to them from the military weapons developed on the Continent. In 1886 France adopted the Lebel of 8 mm. caliber, followed by the German Model 1888 (a rifle with the Mannlicher bolt and magazine and Mauser front lugs) and the English .303 Lee-Metford in 1889. All of these rifles were tried on big game. The German and Austrian rifles with the combination of box magazine and front locking lugs on the bolt proved most popular, especially when Mannlicher at Steyr produced a 6.5 mm. rifle of this type for Holland and Roumania. Introduced to England for use on the range and at running deer targets about 1892 by Sir Henry Loder, Capt. George Gibbs, riflemaker and superintendent of the government rifle factory at Enfield, and St. George Littledale, who had used the rifle in the Caucasus, the Mannlicher became very popular. This was the military-type rifle, using a flat full-clip magazine with 162 grain bullets at 2,400 feet per second in the cut-down, twenty-five-inch barrel. The rifles were reported to have cost thirty-two shillings apiece, or eight to ten dollars, from the factories in Steyr and Liege, Belgium.

Sir Alfred Pease, having hunted with Loder on several trips to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, moved to a ranch at Nairobi, British East Africa, in 1896 and took a Mannlicher along. His reasons are best stated in his *Book of the Lion:*

This series of articles grew out of a list of the major big game hunters before 1925, compiled by the author. The list includes not only the names of these hunters but where and when they hunted, the game they were after, and the arms they used. THE RIFLEMAN *would like to know if there is enough interest in this list to warrant its reproduction and distribution in a folder to those who express that interest.*

"As to rifles I prefer to have one light handy rifle and a double-barreled ball and shotgun carried in reserve, when after lions. The rifle which has been my constant companion since 1892 is a rather short-barreled, five-shot magazine .256 Mannlicher; any apparent deficiency in size of bore and weight of bullet is compensated for in my opinion by the ease and rapidity with which it can be manipulated, the little room occupied by ammunition, the flatness of trajectory and the superiority of its striking energy over some of the larger bores. With the .256 I have killed many lions, as well as pachyderms, and antelopes from greater kudu downward, it is no weight to carry on foot or on horseback, and the mechanism is of the simplest and strongest kind; wet, sand, mud, tumbles, and croppers have never injured it, and a soft-nosed bullet or a 'ratchet' hollow-point Fraser's bullet 'sets up' so well that at times it makes a hole almost as big as one of nearly double its caliber. My gun bearer carries as a rule a very out-of-date weapon, namely, a double-barreled, 10 bore, ball and shot hammer gun, shooting black powder and a solid soft, solid hard, and hollow-point bullet; it is accurate up to 100 yards. It has always served its purpose well with me on lion, elephant and rhino and, though unwieldy, has done execution with small shot as well as with buckshot."



Hippopotami are ever a menace to the hunter who seeks them, particularly in a frail canoe such as this, from which they were frequently hunted

It would seem from the above that Sir Alfred was a two-gun man, but he speaks elsewhere of hunting at various times with a double .400, a .303 Army rifle, a .350 Rigby, and a .404 Jeffery. Contemporary with Pease in East Africa were Denis Lyell, James Sutherland, Lt. Col. J. H. Patterson, of *Maneaters of Tsavo* fame, W. D. M. Bell, Maj. C. H. Stigand, Blayney Percival, Lt. Col. J. S. Hamilton, and Frank Melland. All of these men used a small-bore rifle regularly, with a medium bore in reserve. Denis Lyell, author, ranchman, and student of game and hunting, has this to say in his book, *Hunting and Spoor of Central African Game:*

From 1903 to 1917, Martin Ryan hunted in Africa, killing many species with the 7.9 mm Mauser

> "There were five rifles all about this weight (seven and one-quarter pounds) which did me very good service, and they were a .256 old pattern Mannlicher by Gibbs, two .275 Mausers by Rigby and Westley Richards, a 7.9 mm. (.311 bore) Mauser by Rigby, and a .303 falling block by Frazer. Should I be going to hunt in Africa still having the .256, I would just as soon use it as any other rifle, though according to my experience, the 7.9 was perhaps the best killing rifle of the five mentioned. . . . The Mannlicher, Mannlicher Schoenauer, and Mauser bolt actions are beautifully made, and are most ingenious mechanically, and I do not think any British bolt action can compare with any of them."

James Sutherland was an elephant hunter who did most of his hunting with a double .577 Westley Richards, but used a .318 magazine rifle made on a Mauser action by Jeffery of London. The .577 used 100 grains of smokeless powder behind a 750 grain bullet. With this rifle he is reported to have killed 447 elephants. Lt. Col. Patterson, an engineer on the East African Railway, tells in *Maneaters of Tsavo* how he finally brought to bay and killed the two lions which had carried off and eaten twenty-eight workmen from his camp—this with a .303 military Lee-Metford. Later when the railroad was finished, he did some general hunting in East Africa using a heavier rifle. W. D. M. Bell was another elephant hunter, having killed the prodigious bag of 1,011 elephants, most of them with a .276 or 7 mm. Rigby Mauser using the 173 grain blunt-nosed bullet at about 2,300 foot-seconds velocity. Many of these were killed at ten to fifteen yards with a single brain shot.

Maj. C. H. Stigand, an officer in the King's African Rifles, also used a Mannlicher .256 because of its handiness, supported by a double .450 for the largest game. He was killed by native ambush in an uprising in the Soudan. Blayney Percival, a game ranger in British East Africa or Kenya Colony for many years, used a .256 Mannlicher, supported by a .450 Rigby double rifle. In regard to the small bore he has this to say:

> "I shot most of my lions, say forty, with the .256. I do not remember exactly, but I feel sure that two-thirds of the lions did not need a second bullet; if one did, it usually meant several more. When hunting alone I seldom fired till I had a lion just how I wanted him, and I shot to put him out of business. Soft-nosed bullets I gave up long ago except for small stuff or in heavy rifle."

Col. J. Stevenson Hamilton, a retired Army officer and game official in East Africa, used a .303 Lee-Metford in shooting lions for game protection. He is believed to have killed more lions than any other hunter in Africa, including Paul Rainey, the American who killed 150 in front of a trained pack of lion dogs, a method our English cousins did not consider exactly sporting. This and Roosevelt's game battues irked some of them tremendously. The last of these East African hunters, though not so well known, was Melland, who had this to say about rifles:

"On this occasion I was using an unsatisfactory falling-block .400 which I had before I went to Rigby, and it jammed after the first shot, a habit it had. So, I had to seize a .303 which I had just bought for one pound as a standby because of the bad behavior of my .400. It was very old and the barrel was badly worn; it was not gas tight and burned my cheek each time I fired it. The three elephants swung around to the shot, put their ears out, stretched out their trunks, trumpeted, and came for me in a V-shaped formation, the wounded one leading. I gave him a shot in the chest which tore through his heart and turned him. He went eighty yards and fell, but the other two meanwhile were coming on unchecked. I gave another an identical chest shot at twelve yards with the same effect—it was the only vulnerable spot available, and my luck was holding. The third was then on to me. I fired again and hit him somewhere in that massive front—it was too close to say where. Nevana Kannda let fly with his own muzzle-loader, Chuma with an old Snider he took from an Askari, and Kashimoto fired my shotgun. That volley at any rate served its purpose; it turned him within a trunk's length. As he went off, with exultation resulting from the successful stand, I gave him a raking shot behind in the ribs, a slanting shot which I thought would find his lungs, but, though we spoored him a little way that evening and many miles the next day, we never found him.

"I have already mentioned the weight of the tusks (119 and 110 pounds). Not only were (they) . . . the best I ever got anywhere but I think I may be pardoned for adding that they were . . . the best ever got in Northern Rhodesia, and Selous told me that as far as he knew they were a record for any elephant ever shot by a white man south of Tanganyika."

Later, when hunting in East Africa, Melland used a double .450 Rigby and then two .350 Rigby double rifles to save trouble with duplicating ammunition with a large bore and small bore, and because as he says, "I found that the .350 besides being unrivalled for smaller game would do all that the .450 would do with the bigger."

The small bore was a little slower to make progress in India. Of course, Littledale had used it for his trips into the Himalayas and Central Asia for sheep, but it was still considered unsafe for tiger, and the shooting of elephants was largely controlled because of their domestic value. General R. G. Burton, of the British Army, and General A. E. Wardrop, of the Indian Police, refer in their books mostly to tiger shooting, for which Burton used a .500 double-barreled Holland and made no mention of any other rifle; Wardrop used for tiger and bison a double .470 cordite Express made by James Tolley and Sons, of Birmingham, and a .318 Westley Richards built on the Mauser action for sambur and black buck.

For hunting in Malaya, T. R. Hubback used a double-barreled .500 by Evans, and being a heavy-bore advocate, took a double .400 Evans and a double .375 by Cogswell and Harrison to Alaska in 1918 for a successful hunt after moose, sheep, and bear but he had little comment on their performance.

In America the lever action, descendant of the Spencer, Sharps, Ballard, and Stevens, was so firmly intrenched in popular favor that, when the small bore entered with the .30-30 Winchester and .30-40 Krag army cartridge in 1892, or the .303 Savage in 1895, these rifles, whether single shot or magazine, were on the same lever-action principle. The above cartridges were very popular with American hunters. Roosevelt, Wright, Burnham, Caswell, Riggal, and Lee mention using the .30-30; White, Whelen, Roberts, Robinson, House, McGuire, Kidder, Kermit Roosevelt and McCracken the .30-40; and the .303 Savage was used at one time by Hornaday, Caldwell, and Lee. The .303 Mannlicher used in Mexico before 1900 by Charles Sheldon was undoubtedly the British Army cartridge. However, for all of his later hunting Sheldon used a Jeffery .256 Mannlicher shooting the 160 grain bullet from a 22.5-inch barrel at about 2,300 foot-seconds velocity. In his very interesting three books on Alaskan hunting, Sheldon seldom mentions the rifle. Once during the winter of 1907 while hunting white sheep in subzero weather he had the oil on the bolt freeze so that the rifle would not fire. When boiled to remove the oil, the rifle still refused to work, so that finally he applied a coating of vaseline and had no further trouble.

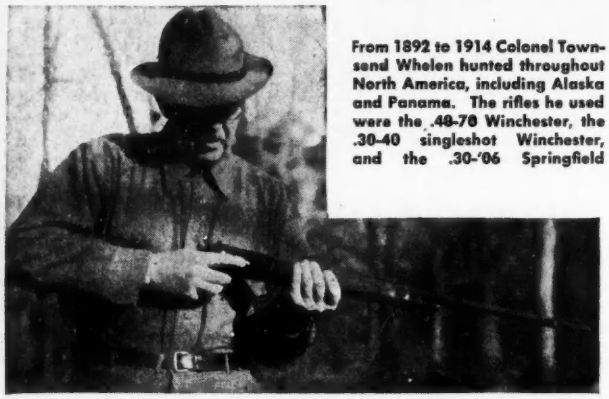
In reply to a letter from D. D. Lyell, Sheldon had the following to say about the Mannlicher:

> "It seems to me perfectly clear that the .256 with the right bullet at a muzzle velocity of 2,300 feet is completely satisfactory for all game on this continent, including moose, caribou, and the large bears, many of which I have killed during years of hunting them. My experience to me is a demonstration that with .256 it is only a question of directing the bullet at a vital or disabling spot."

Left: Dangerous game, particularly leopards and lions, were frequently hunted from elephant back. Here a leopard is being packed on one after the kill

Below: Paul J. Rainey, who hunted lion and rhino in Africa, Polar bear and walrus in the Arctic, with two companions

Brown Bros.



From 1892 to 1914 Colonel Townsend Whelen hunted throughout North America, including Alaska and Panama. The rifles he used were the .40-70 Winchester, the .30-40 singleshot Winchester, and the .30-'06 Springfield

Three of the widest-traveled hunters of this period were E. J. House, H. K. H. Prichard, and John G. Millais. For North American game from sheep and goat to moose and walrus, House used a .30-40 Model 95 Winchester and a 9 mm. Mauser. In Africa, where he secured all game but lion, he used the 9 mm. Mauser, plus a .450 double cordite Express. Prichard, after a trip to Argentina and Chile, made four trips to Newfoundland, Labrador, and Quebec for moose and caribou. His only rifle was a .256 Mannlicher, which apparently gave perfect service since he seldom comments on it and it seemed to perform with deadly accuracy. Prichard's most famous work was his book on the first World War, entitled *Sniping in France,* about the school he ran for snipers in the British Army. His account of the circumvention and demise of Willibald, the German sniper who had killed many English soldiers with his scope-sighted rifle, is a rifleman's classic.

John G. Millais, author, artist, sportsman, and naturalist, probably one of the greatest authorities on aquatic game of the British Isles, hunted big game on three continents and was personally acquainted with more big-game hunters than probably any other one man. His observations on rifles are, therefore, particularly fitting at the close of this early small-bore period. The following is from his *Life of Frederick Courtenay Selous:*

> "All of us who are big-game hunters, however, know how greatly the average of hits had advanced since the introduction of the small-bore, high-velocity rifle. In 1895 came the British .303, the German .275 Mauser, and the Roumanian .256 Mannlicher, and these weapons possess such accuracy and flatness of trajectory that a poor shot becomes a moderate one, a good shot a first-class one, and a first-class performer something remarkable. Since 1900, some firms, notably John Rigby, have utilized the best points of these smaller weapons to make them successful on the largest and most dangerous game in the hands of experienced men, and have invented weapons of tremendous hitting power with magazine rapidity of fire."

Millais' statement of the improvement in marksmanship possible with the accuracy and flat trajectory of the small bore makes no mention of the contribution made by the reduction in rifle weight and recoil. That these are important contributing factors will be apparent in the next article.

Altogether, there were thirty-five men who used and mentioned, during this period, 117 rifles of fifty-two different cartridges or calibers. There were ten large bores from 8 to 12 bore, thirty-nine medium bores from .40 to .577 caliber, and sixty-eight small bores from .22 to .375 caliber (the .22 caliber Savage rifles were really of the next period). The most popular small bore was the .256 Mannlicher, followed by the .303 Lee-Metford and the 7.9 Mauser. In the medium bores the double .450 is first followed by the double .400 and .500. Four big-game hunters used 10 bore Paradox ball and shotguns for reserve guns on dangerous game. *To be concluded.* ♦ ♦ ♦

Kitchen Mechanic Remodeling

(Continued from page 34)

you'll shorten the final pull and lengthen the first one. It must be done with care to avoid grinding too far, but you can get an excellent short, crisp second pull. Careful honing of the sear and sear notch will make both pulls smooth.

But you don't like the military double pull—you prefer a sporting single pull? So did a lot of the local boys. Wherefore the local gunsmith would grind down the sear and sear notch of a bolt, as well as the heel of the trigger, until he removed the second pull altogether, and enough of the first one to leave only a snappy, single let-off without any creep or drag.

Such grinding down of sear and cocking piece is definitely not recommended by any writer on this subject that I've read; but when I said as much to the gunsmith, he answered with a twinkle, "Sonny, there are a lot of things that'll work that you won't read about in books or magazines. Also, quite a few that won't work that you will."

However, if my own rifle is ever changed to a single pull, it will be by adding some device to prevent the trigger's coming far enough forward to have any first pull. A tiny bolt put through a hole drilled in the trigger so it bears against the front of the guard will do it. So will a tiny metal plate screwed to the top of the guard in front of the trigger. Either can be changed or removed if it proves unsafe.

The rear sight with windage easiest to put on is the Pacific EN 2, which fits the original rear sight base when the wings are ground off. However, this keeps the sight line high. If you are going to put on a fancy sight, you might as well cut off the whole rear sight base.

To do this, figure on leaving a thickness of about one-eighth inch or more of metal above the bolt, and about one-sixteenth top thickness of the left rearward projection. Mark out the line to cut to all around the sight base beforehand, to be sure it is even, then use a hack saw, which takes a lot of sawing, or a power grinder, which demands great caution. Round off this surface to an appropriate shape afterward.

Now you've got a receiver similar in shape to the Remington 30S and 720, and can use any of the sights adapted to them. The Lyman 48 is the best known, but there are many excellent cheaper sights, with the Redfield 70 with Hunter knobs my preference.

All this remodeling work is fun, if you don't undertake more than your spare time permits. And when you have that bulky, ugly ten pounds or so of rifle cut down to a graceful and comfortable eight and a quarter, and find it shoots like nobody's business, you'll be more than satisfied with the results of the operation. ♦ ♦ ♦

The SHOTGUN as a DEERSLAYER

By HENRY SCHAEFER

THIS HUNTER THINKS THE MAN REQUIRED BY LAW TO HUNT DEER WITH A SHOTGUN IS MAIMING AND CRIPPLING MUCH GAME ANNUALLY

FOG SHROUDED THE HIGH RIDGES just to the east of the Delaware River that December morning. It was the dawning of the deer season in northern New Jersey. Visibility was not more than fifty or seventy-five yards, depending upon the vagaries of a light breeze. I waited and shivered for something to happen. After a while, something did. There was a noise, higher up on the ridge of shotguns blasting, and then, in a little while, bounding along through the fog, came two deer.

They stopped to look back in the direction of the shooting, and, straining to make out antlers, I finally saw spikes on one of the deer. He was standing broadside, not more than sixty yards away.

The gun came up and was squared off level at the chest of that buck. But at the brassy bellow of my shotgun, the deer, instead of collapsing, merely bounded into the air and broke into speedy flight. Nor did he stop after the second load of No. 00 buckshot was started in his general direction. Feverish examination of the spot revealed that the buck had been hit by at least that first charge of buckshot. He left a blood trail in the light snow that a half-dozen hunters were soon following (they have plenty in New Jersey) but the buck was never found as far as I know. I couldn't understand it then, but that was the first deer I ever shot at with buckshot. I can understand it today.

In the years that have followed that loss, I have gradually built up the conclusion that the disdain with which the average rifleman-hunter holds the shotgun is fully justified. I have learned that the smoothbore is a most unpredictable weapon for deer hunting, murderous at very close range, but extremely unreliable at ranges beyond average quail or rabbit distances, no matter what the load.

Painstaking measurement of actual distances, after both successful and unsuccessful shots, with particular care not to indulge in the easy practice of adding yardage to each successful shot for the greater glory of the hunter, has convinced me that the shotgun's effective buckshot range is forty to fifty yards, and that kills up to seventy-five yards are possible but uncertain.

I vividly remember an instantaneous kill on a deer running wildly at sixty yards. I also remember losing a dandy, heavy-horned buck standing broadside at sixty yards, and other deer at ranges from fifty yards up. The tragic thing is that all deer shot at probably picked up some pellets. In most instances, I know hits were scored, but often the location of the hits could not be ascertained.

The running deer killed at sixty yards picked up two No. 1 buckshot pellets. One broke its jaw, the other drilled a hole in the skull, lodging in the brain. What happened to the other fourteen pellets in that load of shot I do not know. Aim was taken at the barrel of the chest. The only pellet that counted would have missed completely had it flown two inches higher. In that event the deer would, of course, have made a getaway to await starvation because of a hopelessly broken jaw.

The big buck standing broadside fell twice after being hit, but could not be trailed in the fast-gathering dusk. Heavy snowfall that night ruled out all possibility of tracking the following morning, though I looked for him for several days, unsuccessfully. Very likely he vanished to waste away in some secluded part of the woods or swamps.

When I first embarked on the task of finding out just how good, or rather, how bad, the shotgun really was, I started paper patterning of loads of all sizes, fired through barrels of all lengths and chokes. I came to the early conclusion that the points of impact of a charge of buckshot at any point beyond twenty yards are almost completely unpredictable.

I found that choke or the absence of choke, that so surely governs the rate of expansion of a charge of bird shot, has almost no predictable effect upon buckshot pellets. Take nine marbles in your hand and let the works go at a brick wall forty yards away. The pattern will approximate the pattern of a load of

No. 00 buckshot at the same distance. With repeated throws, just as your handful of marbles will strike at various points, so will your buckshot.

The business of hitting a deer in any given spot at the same range is another risky game of chance. You might land one pellet in the brain, one in the vertebrae, one in the skull and miss with the other six. You might land two in the belly and miss clean with seven pellets. If you don't believe it, make a life-size drawing of a deer and shoot at it at forty yards.

I got some amazingly poor results from some loads. A charge of No. 00 buckshot fired through the twenty-six-inch cylinder barrel of an automatic shotgun placed four pellets in a group about twelve inches across, the lowest pellet fifteen inches above dead center on the patterning paper. In addition, there were three pellets, six inches apart, eleven inches below dead center on the paper. There were twenty-six inches of blank, unperforated paper between the upper group of four and the lower group of three pellets. If that load had been fired at the body of a deer at forty yards, with a dead-center hold, four pellets would have whistled harmlessly over his back; and three pellets would have ripped along, with equal lack of effect, below his belly.

In few loads tested could I find all pellets arriving on a yard-square patterning paper at forty yards. Pellets that flew off the course often took extremely divergent courses. Quite frequently they struck the ground before arriving at that patterning paper forty yards away. Others were probably straining to reach the moon, or wandering yards off to left or right of the point the barrel was aimed at.

As a result of that testing, I reached the conclusion that the No. 00 load of buckshot is not the best in most 12 gauge guns, and that either No. 0 or No. 1 is superior. There are more pellets per load in the smaller sizes of shot, and for that reason the probable chances of landing in a vital area on the target are increased.

I have reached the conclusion, after witnessing many successes and failures with buckshot, that landing pellets in the *right* area is the all-important consideration. The pellets travel relatively slowly, roughly 1,000 feet a second, and, because only a few of them have much chance of landing on the mark, carry little shocking power. For that reason, landing several buckshot pellets in nonvital areas is worse than not hitting at all. I have yet to record an instance in which a deer was recovered in usuable condition that was hit in nonvital areas with buckshot. The range would have to be extremely close to have hemorrhage stop the animal within a reasonable distance after being hit. Ordinarily, deer hit in the body at normal ranges with buckshot, leave but little blood trail, even on snow.

In many cases I have found blood trails gradually giving out. Without question, in these instances, the blood hardened to seal the wounds. Seldom are deer shot through with buckshot pellets, even at quite close range, though I have known it to happen.

An experienced deer hunter, **HENRY SCHAEFER** *is a newspaper writer by profession and resident of New Jersey, whose law requires that deer be hunted with a shotgun because of the danger inherent in the use of a high powered rifle in that densely settled state.*

These lost deer (and it is my personal and considered opinion that as many or more are wounded and lost than are recovered) most likely perish hours or days after soaking up a load or loads of buckshot pellets. I say loads advisedly, because I have witnessed a dozen or more men empty their guns at a fleeing buck in a drive, only to have the animal escape. No one knows how many lead balls these deer pack off with them.

More kills would be scored, I have concluded, if smaller shot were used. In no gun that the writer has ever patterned has the most popular load, No. 00 buck, shown good results. Single 0 buckshot is more reliable in most 12 gauge guns than No. 00, and No. 0 has been for years recommended by the loading companies, yet probably ten boxes of the big shot are sold to every one of the smaller size. The gain in shock effect or penetration of the No. 00 size does not compensate for the loss in number of pellets. I know that No. 1 buckshot has enough energy to pierce the skull of a buck at sixty-five yards. Either No. 1, with its load of sixteen pellets, or No. 0, with its load of twelve, stands a better chance of landing where it will do some good, than the nine balls loaded in No. 00.

If you must use buckshot, get shells of all sizes, set up patterning paper at forty yards, and find out for yourself just what size your own particular barrels handle most efficiently. Probably not one man in four dozen does that.

No. 4 buckshot has twenty-seven pellets to the load and is very popular in some sections of the country. I have had little experience with this load though I once sent a single pellet from a charge clear through the small of the back of a light deer, later killed by a frontal shot at thirty yards with a load of No. 00. The No. 4 size has patterned poorly in barrels in which I have tested it. In the gun I now use for deer hunting, a 12 gauge, No. 0 gives the best results.

Before the war there was a developing craze among smoothbore users for the rifled slug. The Brennecke slug had been on the American market for years, but it was expensive and for some reason or other did not come into general favor. In states like Pennsylvania, where single-ball loads were legal only, shotgun men used the old-fashioned "pumpkin seed," the ounce ball that has a trajectory like a basketball, and about as much sense of direction as a wandering cow. When American manufacturers brought out their cheap slug, hollowed at the rear, smoothbore users went for it hard. The rifled slug flies far truer than the single ball and it flies head on. I have found patterns of six inches or so possible at forty yards with a firmly rested gun. Some men make better claims.

The slug, however, does not put the shotgun in the class of all-round champion. Hits beyond seventy-five yards are very doubtful because of the difficulty of accurately aiming a shotgun. I would suggest that the prospective user of rifled slugs buy a hundred or so and spend several days in determining just what his particular gun is capable of doing with them. In my own testing, I found this: An over-under shotgun of good make slammed all its slugs fourteen inches high at forty yards. In order to hit a deer in the barrel of the chest at that distance, it would have been necessary to aim well below. Because of this high shooting, the gun was never used with slugs for deer.

A good double-barrel 16 gauge consistently shot its right barrel slug twelve inches to the left at forty yards, and its left barrel slug the same distance to the right of dead center.

An automatic shotgun put the slugs three inches high and

Feverish examination of the spot revealed that the buck had been hit by at least that first charge of buckshot . . .

another double gun, a skeet model, was capable of six- to eight-inch groups at the same distance, alternately firing both barrels. That gun could really use the slugs. So could the automatic.

The absence of good sights on a shotgun, the rainbowlike trajectory of the slugs, and the inability of most hunters to measure distances quickly and accurately will probably insure that the rifled slugs will never wipe out the deer population. The first time I used a rifled slug on game, I aimed at a small buck standing broadside in an apple orchard. He was sixty yards away. I aimed at the chest and at the shot the buck went down as if hit by lightning. The slug hit in the paunch, about ten inches to left of the point of aim, made a neat, round, red hole, surrounded by an inch-wide white ring (hide from which the hair had been burned off by the projectile). It looked exactly like concentric rings of a target. The slug, of course, plowed right on through, leaving the same-size exit hole, but no burned-off hair. The deer looked as if it had been drilled through with an auger.

That was as dead a deer and as fast a dead deer as I have ever seen. I was jubilant about the effectiveness of the slug, got on the band wagon and praised it to the skies. I had never before killed a deer with a shotgun where the missile had landed in a nonvital area. Of course, paunching and recovering a deer with a really high-powered rifle is not particularly noteworthy. The joker is that I missed completely the next seven deer I aimed at with slugs. I am confident, however, that any kind of a decent body hit made with a rifled slug will be translated speedily into a very dead deer. I'd much rather see hunters use the slug, and either connect for an on-the-spot kill, or miss completely and cleanly.

The buckshot-using shotgun wounds too many deer. A buck looks pretty big to an anxious hunter at 100 yards, and there are few that will pass up a shot at that range. I have never found an authentic case of a kill at that distance, though I know many claims are made. Most hunters can't resist the temptation of bragging, but in this case it leads to attempting to achieve things which the scattergun simply is not capable of. It is inhuman to wound and mutilate an animal. I have found that broadside shots beyond fifty yards seldom pay off, nor should they be attempted. Shots in the hindquarters rarely work, even at moderate ranges. With broadside shots in chest or neck areas, when the range is this side of forty yards, the shotgun can, and often does, kill like lightning. There are even situations, such as when hunting in the extremely thick cover of south Jersey, and throughout the southern states' junglelike growth, where the shotgun may be *preferable* to a rifle. It handles faster and with it a gunner is just about dead certain to hit an animal as large as a deer. At thirty yards, and you get shots like that on drives in the thick stuff, buckshot will send the heaviest buck spinning with broadside shots in chest or neck. In some states hounds are used not only to drive healthy deer but to track down the wounded. Naturally their use reduces the number of deer left to die and rot, but many states forbid the use of hounds.

Most of the deer I have killed with buckshot were at close range, sometimes within forty feet, and in these cases the deer was killed on the spot.

But, taken by and large, the shotgun is a very inadequate big-game weapon, a cruel wounder and mutilator of many thousands of deer every year. With the rifle a competent hunter is fairly sure of a kill; with a shotgun he is not. Where the law forbids the use of the rifle, the smoothbore is better than no gun at all, but where the rifle is permitted, give me the rifle every time. ♦ ♦ ♦

THE SCHUETZEN RIFLE: Early Models

By N. H. ROBERTS

AFTER MORE THAN SIXTY-FIVE YEARS of experience with nearly all kinds and models of American breech-loading, single-shot match and hunting rifles, as well as various models of hunting and military repeating rifles, it is my opinion that one can learn more about rifle shooting and ballistics by using the breech-loading, single-shot match or Schuetzen rifle, than with any other. Also, I feel that far more pleasure is obtained from shooting these rifles at 200 yards offhand or from a bench rest than can be had by shooting any other type of rifle. I find this is almost a unanimous opinion of all the older riflemen who became experts during the years when shooting the match or Schuetzen rifle was so popular in this country. During this period, from about 1880 until 1906 or '08, there was a rifle club flourishing in nearly every large city and town. These clubs held regular weekly practice shoots or matches which were patronized by businessmen, doctors, lawyers, ministers—men from all walks of life. All of these men attended the weekly practice shoots for the *sport* they derived from them, or to get the practice which later made them our best offhand riflemen. Among them were Dr. W. G. Hudson, Harry M. Pope, Colonel W. A. Tewes, Major C. W. Hinman, F. J. Rabbeth, W. Milton Farrow, and a host of others.

It is a fascinating style of shooting, in which one decaps, reprimes, and reloads ONE cartridge case, seating the lubri-

This is the author's Sharps, Model 1874, .40-70 caliber rifle.

cated lead bullet in the breech of the match rifle, or loading it through the false muzzle with the bullet starter, and inserting the shell containing the powder in the chamber of the rifle.

The first target rifle (or match rifle, as they were then called) that I used was a Remington-Ryder "rolling block." This .40-50 caliber rifle was chambered for a bottle-necked, Berdan-primed cartridge, loaded with 50 grains of black powder and a 285 grain, paper-patched bullet. It had a thirty-inch barrel, a Vernier rear peep and a wind-gauge front sight with interchangeable discs, and weighed nine pounds, fourteen ounces. I learned a lot by shooting it at 200 yards or forty rods, both rest and offhand. Of course, I loaded all my cartridges, cast the cylindrical bullets, and applied the paper patches during the evenings at home. After an afternoon's shooting on the range, the first job at home (if we had used more than one cartridge case) was to pry out those Berdan primers, using the "cap awl" for this purpose, wash and dry the cases, and seat new Berdan primers with the "primer seater." Next we filled a cup with Hazard's "Kentucky Rifle" black powder, and dipped our charges so that they were uniform and evenly filled. This powder was poured into the shell, a thin cardboard wad put down on the powder, and the paper-patched bullet seated with a "ball seater" much like our present straight-line bullet seater. Thus, we prepared our cartridges for the next day's shooting.

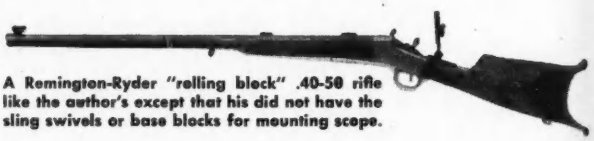
Casting bullets, patching them, loading the cartridges, and all of the details sound like a lot of work to the modern shooter who buys factory-loaded cartridges, but we enjoyed it.

With the Remington-Ryder it was necessary to wipe the bore after each shot, using first a wet cloth in the slotted end of a wooden wiping rod, then with one or two dry cloths in the slotted end of another wooden wiping rod. It was extremely necessary to wipe the bore of the rifle *uniformly* after each shot, because any variation, such as leaving a little more moisture in the bore after one shot than after another, would change the point of impact of the bullets when rest shooting at 200 yards.

AN EMINENT FIREARMS AUTHORITY RECALLS THE FIRST TARGET RIFLES HE USED MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO

That .40-50 Remington rifle, using the load described, would keep ten or more consecutive bullets in or cutting a seven-inch bull at 200 yards, rest shooting, if one used an aperture front and rear peep sight and was careful to wipe the bore uniformly after each shot. Any variation in wiping would enlarge the group to ten inches or more. It was also necessary to watch the wind very carefully, since that bullet was easily affected by twelve o'clock and six o'clock winds. The seven-inch, ten-shot groups at 200 yards, rest, could be made only on days when there was practically no cross wind, or late in the day when there was no wind. Under those conditions, occasional six-inch, ten-shot groups could be made at that range, rest shooting.

After using that .40-50 Remington rifle for nearly two years, during which time experienced riflemen repeatedly told me that the .40-50 cartridge had too light a powder charge for accuracy at 200 yards, I traded it for a Sharps Model 1874, "side hammer" rifle. The Sharps was chambered for the .40-70 bottle-neck, Berdan-primed cartridge, and loaded with 70 grains of black powder and a 370 grain, paper-patched bullet. The



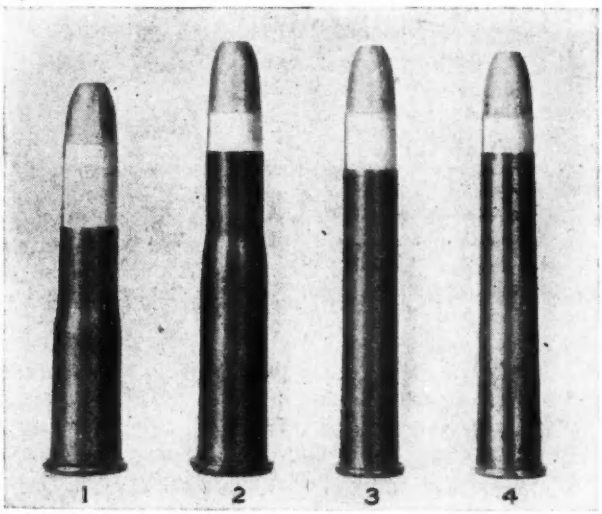
A Remington-Ryder "rolling block" .40-50 rifle like the author's except that his did not have the sling swivels or base blocks for mounting scope.

rifle weighed nine and three-quarter pounds and had a twenty-eight-inch octagon barrel, a vernier rear peep sight, a wind-gauge front sight with interchangeable discs, and a double-set trigger, used only for rest shooting. I cast my own bullets, patched them, and handloaded the cartridges evenings at home in order to have cartridges for the next week's shoot.

I soon learned that the .40 caliber Sharps with its charge of 70 to 75 grains of Fg. black powder and 370 grain bullet was considerably more accurate for rest shooting at 200 yards than the .40-50 Remington had been. But, of course, the recoil was heavier and I was unable to make any better offhand scores

at 200 yards with it than I had made with the lighter-recoiling .40-50. This Sharps rifle, used with carefully handloaded cartridges whose bullets had been carefully weighed after patching, and with the bore wiped very carefully after each shot, would keep ten or more consecutive bullets in or cutting a six-inch bull at 200 yards, rest shooting, when there was little or no wind. Little variations in wiping the bore *uniformly* after each shot increased the size of the groups to eight or nine inches, but I found the 370 grain bullet backed by 70 to 75 grains of powder was less affected by wind than the bullet fired in the .40-50 Remington. If the bore of the .40-70 Sharps rifle was not wiped after each shot, it was very difficult to keep ten shots in less than a twelve-inch circle at 200 yards, rest shooting, even under the best of weather conditions, because the black powder fouled the bore so much.

After using the .40-70 Sharps for two years, the fashion changed. Most of the experienced marksman discarded their .40 and .44 caliber rifles, adopting .38-50 or .38-55 caliber match rifles for 200 yard offhand shooting. Of course, I had to follow fashion and exchanged my .40-70 Sharps for a .38-50 caliber Remington rolling-block rifle having a 28-inch barrel and the usual vernier peep rear and wind-gauge front sights.



1. The .40-50 Sharps with the 285 grain bullet; 2. The .40-70 Sharps with 370 grain bullet; 3. The .38-55 with 330 grain bullet; 4. The .38-50 Remington with 285 grain bullet. Note that the .38-50 case is longer than the .38-55.

That rifle weighed nine pounds and balanced nicely for offhand shooting. Improved offhand scores at 200 yards were possible with it since the lighter powder charge and lighter bullet reduced recoil. The Remington .38-50 caliber cartridge used the Boxer or Hobbs primer, similar to our present primers in construction. Reloading with them was much easier than it had been with Berdan-primed cartridges. We loaded the .38-50 cartridge with 55 grains of Hazard's Kentucky Rifle black powder, a cardboard wad over the powder, and a 285 grain, paper-patched bullet, breech-seated one-sixteenth inch ahead of the case containing the powder. Sometimes we used either 50 grains of that powder and a 250 grain, grooved, lubricated bullet seated two bands deep in the case, or 55 grains of black powder and a 250 grain, breech-seated, lubricated bullet. But less accuracy was obtained with the lubricated bullet at 200 yards rest than with the 285 grain, paper-patched bullet. Of course, the bore of this rifle was wiped carefully after each shot, regardless of the bullet used.

At 200 yards, rest shooting, this rifle would keep ten shots, with 285 grain, paper-patched bullets, breech-seated, in or cutting a four-and-one-half to five-inch bullseye, provided there was little or no wind and the bore was carefully wiped after each shot. When using the lubricated bullet, breech-seated under the same conditions, the 200-yard rest groups averaged six inches.

After using that .38-50 Remington rifle for about a year, I sold it and bought a .38-55 caliber Ballard "Union Hill" rifle weighing nine and one-half pounds. It had a twenty-eight-inch, half-octagon barrel, vernier rear peep and wind-gauge front sights, and a double-set trigger. I had two bullet molds with this rifle, one for a 255 grain grooved bullet and the other for a 330 grain cylindrical bullet used with a paper patch. There was also a full set of Ballard loading tools, and fifty cartridges loaded with paper-patched bullets. The total cost of this rifle, the two bullet molds, loading tools, and fifty cartridges was thirty-five dollars. Later I bought twenty Everlasting .38-55 caliber shells at six cents each because they were made of thicker brass and were more durable for reloading than the U. M. C. shells. When I disposed of that rifle several years later, the Everlasting shells were in almost new condition, even though each had been reloaded several hundred times.

Of course, I cast all my bullets, both the grooved and cylindrical, patched them, and loaded my cartridges during evenings at home. When I bought the Ballard Union Hill, I also purchased, from William Read & Sons, of Boston, a twelve-and-one-half-pound keg of English Curtis & Harvey "Diamond Grain No. 6" black powder to use in reloading the .38-55 cartridges. This was the same powder I had used years before in muzzle-loading, cap-lock rifles. This powder burned quite moist, never caked in the bore, and was a little stronger, charge for charge, than the best American-made black rifle powders. Using the .38-55 shell filled with about 55 grains of Curtis & Harvey powder, a cardboard wad, and the 330 grain, paper-patched bullet, breech-seated in the bore, this rifle gave better accuracy at 200 yards, rest and offhand, than any rifle I had owned. The cleaner, moister-burning powder fouled the bore much less than the Kentucky Rifle powder. Consequently the bore required less wiping after each shot and the fouling wiped out more completely than did that of other black powders. This resulted in increased accuracy with the Union Hill Ballard. Under favorable weather conditions, the rifle would make ten-shot groups at 200 yards, rest, that measured three and one-quarter to three and one-half inches from center to center of

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This article resulted from the preparation of a book on the Scheutzen rifle, to be published sometime this year.

the bullet holes farthest apart. Occasional ten-shot groups measured but three inches from center to center. All of these groups were made with a vernier rear peep sight and an aperture front sight which was the correct size for the bullseye used. I used a "pin head," or globe, front sight for offhand shooting, since it was easier to hold nearly the same each time with that than with the aperture sight. But an aperture front sight of the right size for the bullseye enables one to aim more uniformly for every shot in rest shooting than when using the globe front sight.

My Uncle Alvaro Annis, one of Berdan's Sharpshooters during the Civil War, who taught me rifle shooting, said that the Union Hill Ballard .38-55 rifle was the first breech-loading rifle he had seen which would occasionally make as small ten-shot groups at forty rods, rest shooting, as would his heavy .42 caliber muzzle-loading cap lock rifle that used a long cylindrical bullet with paper "cross-patch." He was much intrigued with this Ballard of mine, and began shooting it quite a lot at forty rods, rest. Before seeing it, he had shot the rifles I owned only occasionally and had not been favorably impressed with their accuracy. About six weeks after I bought this rifle our club had a forty-rod rest match. Conditions called for ten consecutive shots, no sighters, scored by the size of the group measured on the centers of bullet holes farthest apart. In this match I made a three-inch group, using 330 grain, paper-patched bullets in my Union Hill Ballard, while Uncle made a three-and-one-quarter-inch group with his pet muzzle-loader. That night, after supper and after cleaning his muzzle-loading rifle, he hurried to the post office with an order to William Read & Sons, of Boston, for a Union Hill Ballard rifle with thirty-inch barrel, sights like those on my rifle, two bullet molds, loading tools, and some Everlasting shells.

When that rifle arrived, he got busy shooting it at forty rods, rest, using the 330 grain, paper-patched bullets backed with the Curtis & Harvey Diamond Grain black powder (the kind he had used for many years in his muzzle-loading rifle). He was delighted with its accuracy at 200 yards. However, he insisted that his muzzle-loading rifle would make smaller fifty-shot or 100-shot groups at forty rods, rest, than would the Union Hill Ballard or any other breech-loading rifle then made. I believe he was right.

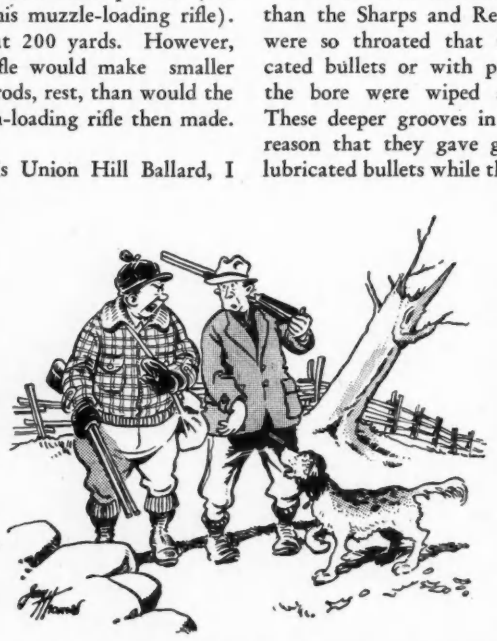
During the second year I used this Union Hill Ballard, I began using but one cartridge case for an afternoon's shooting—decapping it, reprimirig, filling the shell with powder from a powder flask, putting a cardboard wad over the powder, and breech-seating the paper-patched bullet one-sixteenth inch ahead of the shell. Uncle said that reloading one shell in this way—an Everlasting shell—was "an old maid's whim" and that no one could make any smaller groups with these than with shells loaded at home and brought to the range ready to use with the breech-seated bullet. Since this was in 1885 or '86, before the appearance of du Pont No. 1 Rifle Smokeless Powder, with which the experts primed their black-powder loads for the match rifles, I presume Uncle may have been correct. But in 1894, after that No. 1 Rifle Smokeless Powder came on the market and riflemen adopted the method of duplex loading, it was soon proved definitely that by reloading one shell with the duplex load and breech-seating the bullet, considerably smaller ten-shot, twenty-shot, or fifty-shot groups at 200 yards, rest, could be shot than had ever been made with straight black-powder loads. With duplex loading it was unnecessary to clean the bore of the rifle after each shot. Also, after duplex loading had been used in Schuetzen rifles for a number of years, it was proved conclusively that lubricated bullets, breech-seated or muzzle-loaded, gave better accuracy than paper-patched bullets. Paper-patched bullets soon went out of use in the match or Schuetzen rifles.

A Ballard target rifle

The barrels of those old Sharps and Remington match rifles were cut with very shallow grooves—about .00225 inch deep—especially for use with paper-patched bullets. However, the throat, or bullet seat, was long and tapering, so that paper-patched bullets would not tear or wrinkle while being breech-seated, or when partly seated in the shell. Therefore, these rifles would not give fine accuracy with lubricated bullets because the grooves were too shallow, even when the bore was wiped after each shot. Even when using the best of English black powders—Curtis & Harvey Diamond Grain, or Pigou, Laurence and Wilkes—which burned more moist than the American black powders and consequently fouled the bore much less—it was necessary to wipe the bore in order to obtain fine accuracy at 200 yards or more.

The barrels of the Ballard rifles were cut with deeper grooves than the Sharps and Remington—about .003 inch deep—and were so throated that they gave nice accuracy with lubricated bullets or with paper-patched bullets, breech-seated, if the bore were wiped after each shot, but not otherwise. These deeper grooves in the Ballard rifles were, I believe, the reason that they gave good accuracy with the breech-seated, lubricated bullets while the shallow-grooved Sharps and Remington rifles gave only fair accuracy.

The younger riflemen believe it was impossible to get fine accuracy with these early Sharps, Remington, and Ballard rifles, but it is not true. When those rifles were used by a painstaking rifleman, who thoroughly understood how properly to load the cartridges, cast and patch the bullets, and wipe the bore uniformly after each shot, they would make perfect ten-shot scores at 200 yards, under good weather conditions, on the targets then in use. Proof of this may be found in the scores puplished in *The Rifle, Shooting and Fishing*, and *Forest and Stream* magazines from 1876 to about 1895. Those old rifles would shoot! ◆ ◆ ◆



Naw, I hate hunting . . . But my mother-in-law's visiting us!

The Old Coach

INDOOR RANGE LIGHTING

WITH THE SMALL-BORE INDOOR SEASON in full swing, we too often find a severe test of our eyesight. Shooting in good daylight in the open air is one thing for the eyes. Shooting in a poorly lighted, smoke-hazy basement range is something else again. Way back when Noah and your Old Coach used to go fishing together, all the indoor ranges were lighted with gas lights, with polished reflectors behind the flame. The famous Zettler Brothers range in New York City used gas originally, and I recall that the light was rather dim, as compared to our present electricity, and it had a decided yellow tinge to it. Memory lifts me back to the range in old Madison Square Garden (N. Y.) where, later, electric lights were used and the faces of the targets were lighted up in good shape. In spite of the vastly improved fixtures that are available today, too many of our indoor ranges are not nearly as well lighted as was that famous range of forty-five years ago.

On many of our present-day ranges, there are enough lights burning enough electricity to provide ample light, but the lights are so abominably placed that dark and light areas appear on the face of the targets, producing disastrous results for many iron-sight shooters. On one old range that comes to mind, the lights were so placed that, unless the shooter was wise to local conditions, he would shoot low on the lower two bulls of the five bullseye target, using the sight setting that was right for the top two bulls. Many a good small-bore shooter firing over that range dropped unaccountable points and left for home fed up and blaming his rifle, the sights, the ammunition, even the weather for his poor scores. There is no excuse for permitting such a condition to continue to exist. The NRA has done a lot of studying in co-operation with lighting engineers to develop the best lighting system for indoor ranges and any club can get the information free of charge. Fortunately, the best lighting system is by all odds the cheapest. Properly lighted, an indoor range will actually give you less eye trouble than an outdoor range. Don't let the old-timers tell you that an indoor range has to be full of shadows, glare, and reflections just because it has always been that way.

Clubs with ranges that are poorly lighted should spend some time and money to correct the situation. The small cost will be instantly repaid by the more uniform scores and the relief to the shooters' eyes. It is not so much the brilliance of the light as it is the distribution. A seemingly dim but even flood of light is far preferable to a blinding but spotty glare such as is found on too many ranges. Remember, too, that the targets on an evenly lighted range will not *appear* to be as brilliantly lighted as they appear on one of those dark, tunnel-like ranges, although the targets on the evenly lighted range will actually be *better* lighted. Contrast is the answer. And *contrast* is also the thing responsible for a lot of the headaches that were blamed on "powder fumes" in the old-fashioned darkened ranges!

Another fault to be found on many ranges is the unfortunate attempt to make one target position do for all four firing positions. Usually, the position chosen is too high for comfortable prone and much too low for standing. There really is no excuse for this condition. It will cost no more to plan originally for at least two target positions, one for prone and one for standing. Kneeling and sitting can both be shot with satisfaction on targets set for prone. Last spring I visited a district small-bore shoot where the target positions were terrible. It was not so bad for the three low positions, but as General Sherman said, it was "hell" for standing. The shooters had to aim down at a very acute angle and how a couple of lanky fellows managed to do it is still a mystery. There was a time when we did not know how a range should be planned and set up, but if we don't know today, it is just too bad.

It makes my back ache to think of trying to shoot prone at a target three feet above the floor, and how in heck is a fellow to shoot standing when he has to hunch himself into a Tony Galento crouch to aim at a floor-level target? Insist that your gallery provide at least two target positions. Target trolleys are a great help to pleasurable indoor shooting and they are not hard to build if you can't afford the commercial kind. They are not necessary, though, and your targets can be carried down to the backstop and hung on frames as we do outdoors. And, speaking of backstops, another old-fashioned idea is that the backstop ought to be painted a dead black or dark green. Here was another producer of eyestrain and headaches. Once more it was *contrast* that caused the trouble—in order to get hits the eyes had to concentrate upon little black circles printed on small white or cream-colored targets hung in front of a big black surface. *Paint the backstop the same color as the target paper.* Then the *bullseyes* are the only points of contrast and the eyes find it a lot easier to concentrate on those bullseyes!

Eyes should be rested after especially trying periods of use. For instance, a hard day at the account books or at a drafting table calls for a change to outdoor distance use if at all possible. Before an important match, read less, or if possible cut it out entirely. Get to bed early and gather in all the rest you possibly can. Use the kind of sights that best suit your own eyes. Some people need bigger apertures than others, or they need wider front sights if a post sight is used. Most tyros try to use apertures that are too small or post front sights that are too narrow. Never mind what Willie Hotshot uses. His eyes are probably different from yours. If you aren't satisfied with the way your sight picture looks after twelve or fourteen shots, try a bigger aperture or a wider front post.

My optometrist tells me that we should not wear colored lenses unless they are prescribed by a man who knows; and this applies to safety shooting glasses. He says the ordinary amber color is bad for some eyes, while the smoky or Crooks are bad for others. Above all things, he says to leave the pop-bottle variety alone 100 per cent. Keen, clear, sharp vision once lost is apparently seldom regained. Most people with good eyes fail to appreciate the blessing that Mother Nature has endowed them with. You care for your rifle but neglect your eyes, and yet, but for your eyes, your favorite rifle would be absolutely useless. ♦ ♦ ♦

POWDER SMOKE: THE NEWS DESK . . . READERS COMMENTS

RECORD HEADS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME

In order that official measurement records of North American big game species may be brought up to date, the Boone and Crockett Club, publishers of "Records of North American Big Game," is appealing to sportsmen throughout the country for authentic data.

Any sportsman who has, or who knows of, a big game head of exceptional size in any respect, such as spread of antlers, number of points, length of outside curve, etc., is requested to forward such information to Mr. R. R. M. Carpenter, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Del., or Henry P. Davis, Remington Arms Company, Bridgeport, Conn. The information will be promptly forwarded to the Boone and Crockett Club for possible inclusion in a planned new edition of "Records of North American Big Game."

Information on the following species is desired; mule deer, whitetail deer, blacktail deer and Arizona whitetail deer; Barren Ground caribou, woodland caribou, mountain caribou; wapiti (elk); pronghorn antelope; bighorn sheep, Stone sheep, desert sheep, and white sheep; Alaskan moose, Canadian moose; Rocky Mountain goat; bison; Alaska brown bear, grizzly bear, black bear; mountain lion.

NEWPORT RIFLE CLUB 70 YEARS OLD

The Newport Rifle Club of Newport, R. I., celebrated seventy years of continuous activity with an anniversary dinner on December 10, 1946. Dr. J. B. Bill, Wayland, Mass., President of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, was the guest of honor of the Newport Club, whose record as an active club is surpassed only by the Walnut Hill Club, which was founded in 1875.

The Newport Club was founded in 1876 by J. Milton Farrow and a half-dozen associates, Mr. Farrow being the first president.

CAMP INSTRUCTORS POSITIONS OPEN

To secure capable rifle Instructors for many of the private and institutional camps participating in the NRA junior shooting program, the NRA operates a Summer Camp Rifle Instructor Placement Service each year. These camps usually open during the last week of June and are in operation for an average of about eight weeks. Varying salaries are paid such Instructors and, in all cases, room and board are included. Such camps are, naturally, located in the most attractive lake and mountain vacation areas and applicants will be able to select the general location preferred. Most camp schedules are so arranged that the adult leaders have considerable free time for their own pleasure in such things as fishing, swimming, boating, horseback riding and other outdoor sports.

Any rifle shooter, man or woman, who likes to work with youngsters and who wants a paid vacation-time position at one of these camps should immediately get in touch with the Junior Section of the Club Activities Division at NRA Headquarters. Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age. Camp Instructor Placement application forms will be sent upon request. This is a particularly fine opportunity for a school teacher or a college student who has his 1947 summer months free.

NEW DCM PRICE LIST

The revised price list for sales of ordnance equipment through the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship will be ready probably in February. The new price list will be mailed to anyone requesting it. Address requests to: Director of Civilian Marksmanship, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

BOOK REVIEWS

BLACK POWDER SNAPSHOTS

By HERBERT ARMENT SHERLOCK

Black Powder Snapshots is a collector's volume of art and anecdotes on our country's black-powder-burning arms, cleverly and simply presented. Not a reference book for the technician, this work fills a need the author-illustrator felt existed for a more sentimental treatment in the modern-pictorial manner.

Starting with the French and Indian Wars, Mr. Sherlock offers high spots in this nation's history up to and through the West's robust days where black powder, fine gunsmithing, and American riflemen played important roles.

Stealing thunder from the current trend of publishers to reproduce more pictures with a minimum of explanatory text, the composer, himself an ardent devotee of old black-powder weapons, has stressed visual interpretation.

His character studies in crayon, brush and pencil, of rifle-shooting gentry of the past two centuries, are classic in their honesty. They depict the ragged, rugged roughness—sans Hollywood glamour—of the marksmen who "made America."

Offset lithography and sepia-printed linecuts beautifully augment the very readable tributes to American sharpshooting prowess.

(Published by Standard Publications, Inc., Huntington, W. Va. Available through the NRA Book Department.)

HOW TO HUNT AMERICAN GAME

By ROBERT B. VALE

This is really a grand book, first published in 1936 under the title "Wings, Fur and Shot." It is a friendly, interesting, helpful book. It is the kind of book you read at one sitting because it reads with all the zest and color of a good yarn. After you've finished you go back and read this chapter and that chapter over and over again. And at each reading you gain a bit more of that meaty nourishment that so well suits the average hunter's appetite.

This is a book that the 12- to 14-year-old hunter-to-be will pore over—if you put it within his reach. Out of his happy reading will come happier hunting too. Without preachment he will have learned that the *real* hunter is always a real sportsman. Without dire warnings of disaster he will have acquired a prideful knowledge of the habits of the cotton-tail, the gray squirrel, the quail and dove, the duck and rail bird, the coon and the whitetail, which will send him into the woods and

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fields with the kind of understanding, watchful eye that is the best insurance against hunting accidents.

This is the kind of book that John Q. Shooter and his boy can understand, appreciate, and profit by reading. It neglects high-priced guns, fancy hunting clothes, pedigreed hunting dogs, and hunting clubs. What other book has *dared* talk about rabbit shooting as a sport worthy of mention? *This* one does! Talks about it learnedly, cheerfully and with the same high zest that rabbit shooting is enjoyed by 75 per cent of America's gun owners! It even talks about the duck shooter who *walks* in search of his ducks instead of driving or flying to a place where he is picked up by the club's caretaker and transported in a roughing-it-deluxe cruiser to the roughing-it-deluxe hunting lodge.

There are some typographical errors in the book—"settting" spelled with three "t's" is an example. But none of it results in ambiguity or even jars your reading pleasure very much. And the price is low enough in this day of unseemly prices that an occasional typographical error should probably be forgiven.

Unless you confine your shooting strictly to the "ultra" you ought to buy this book, then you ought to buy another for every teen-age boy in your family—sons, nephews, and cousins.—C. B. L.

(The Military Service Publishing Co., Cloth. 198 pages. Colored frontispiece and many black and white illustrations by George M. Sutton—$4.00. Available from the NRA Book Department.)

MAUSER RIFLES AND PISTOLS

By W. H. B. Smith

This book of 234 pages consists primarily of a history of the Mauser firm and its products. The book has an extraordinarily large number of illustrations; some 77 pages are devoted entirely to cuts with their accompanying captions, and, in addition, there are some 35 pictures in the text. The pictures, unfortunately, are not uniformly of very great clarity. Many, which apparently were taken from German charts or texts, are muddy and distinctly hard to read.

The first third of the text, approximately, is devoted to a history of the Mauser beginnings, with especial emphasis on the part played by Samuel Norris, who was the European representative of Remington in the late 60's.

There follows a mention, accompanied by more or less descriptive matter, of each of the military Mauser models, treated in the order in which they appeared on the market. Unfortunately, there is precious little about that subject in which so many ex-servicemen are now interested; that is, the German service rifles of this War. The standard German Service Gewehr 98 and its modifications are dismissed with a scant page and a half of text. This, however, is accompanied by quite a few illustrations, which, together with their captions, make up for some of the information otherwise omitted.

The Mauser sporting rifles are briefly treated, but quite a bit of attention is paid to several early experimental Mauser semiautomatic rifles on which there is very little extant elsewhere.

The book then goes on to the subject of the various Mauser pistols, and ends with some illustrations of the little-known Mauser revolvers.

The reader will be amazed at the enormous amount of material that this author has dug up; and he will also deduce that it must have been put into book form in a very great hurry. Take, for example, the statements on the pressure of the 7.9 mm. cartridge with round-nose bullets and with Spitzer or pointed bullets—page 83 "The original chamber pressure was about 46,933 pounds . . ."; page 85 "originally intended to use a cartridge with a chamber pressure of about 47,040 pounds"; again, page 85 "official Mauser figures are . . . 46,933 ft. lbs. (*sic*) for the round nose and 51,333 ft. lbs. for the pointed nose."; page 113 "The original round-nose . . . chamber pressure of about 51,333 foot pounds."; page 113 the Spitzer (pointed) bullet . . . chamber pressure of about 35,000 pounds as compared with the 42,000 for the round nose bullet."

If Mauser history is what you want, you will find it in this book, if you have the patience to look for it (there is no index). But, if you want to find out what a Mauser short action is, or what the K means in K 98 K, or which was the dangerous Mauser made during the latter part of the War, or if you want to read something about those little F. N. Brownings bearing the Mauser name and trademark, or about the HSv or the Chinese Mauser pistol imitation that shoots the .45 A.C.P.—if you are looking for things of that kind—you've got the wrong book!—J. S. H.

(Military Service Publishing Co., $5.00. Available through the NRA Book Department.)

PROFESSIONAL GUNSMITHING

By Walter J. Howe

This new book by the Gun Editor of The Sporting Goods Dealer is a splendid addition to present-day firearms literature. It is a large book—526 pages—and is illustrated with exceptional clarity by 104 line cuts and a number of halftones.

As the title would indicate, it is aimed at the man who intends to set himself up in the business of gunsmithing, but it covers the subject in such clear and simple language that it makes excellent reading for anyone who is at all interested in firearms from the mechanical viewpoint.

The book has twenty chapters, of which the first four are devoted to how to get set up in business, including a lot of interesting material about shop equipment.

The next fourteen chapters cover various phases of actual repair work, including Function and Timing of Parts; Cleaning Actions and Removing Bore Obstructions; Selecting and Mounting Sights; Making Small Parts; Woodwork; Stock Repairs and Alterations; Revolver Repairs; Automatic Pistol Repairs; Rifle Repairs, and Shotgun Repairs. There is an excellent chapter on Heat Treatment of Small Parts and Springs and one on Polishing and Bluing.

Other chapters include some valuable hints on Buying and Selling Used Guns; Tables of Mechanical Reference, something like a condensed machinist's handbook; and a very useful trade directory of present-day manufacturers and dealers in firearms and accessories, and gunsmithing tools and supplies.

Besides being well written and informative, this book is almost entirely free from errors of any kind; even the usual typographical errors are conspicuous by their absence.

Both the author and the publisher are to be congratulated on having produced an outstanding book at a price which, by comparison, is most reasonable for a book of its size and character.—J. S. H.

(Published by the Small Arms Technical Publishing Company, Plantersville, S. C., $6.00.)

COMING EVENTS

The four classes of registered tournaments are indicated as follows:

AA—national Matches.
A—Regional Tournaments.
B—State Championship or large district matches.
C—Local Tournaments.
Un—Indicates tournaments that are not registered.
Tournaments requiring Advance Entries are indicated by **Adv** and tournaments that plan to limit the entries to a predetermined number are indicated by **Ltd.**

FEBRUARY

9, D. C. (C)—National Capital Gallery Pistol Tournament, at Washington, D. C. T. G. Arnold, 5308 41st Place, Hyattsville, Md. **Adv-Ltd.**

9, Minnesota (C)—1st Annual Willmar Gallery Rifle Tournament. Paul W. Fritz, 301 High Avenue, Willmar.

14-15-16, Illinois (C)—Second Annual Great Lakes Gallery Rifle Championship. Helen Van Gaston, 10951 Vernon Avenue, Chicago.

15-16, New York (B)—Niagara Frontier Small Bore Rifle Matches. M. Lawrence Baker, 120 W. Chippewa Street, Buffalo.

16, Pennsylvania (C)—2nd Annual Penna. Indoor Pistol Championship, at West Chester. Mrs. Alice Y. Matthews, 108 Green Hill Road, Broomall. **Adv-Ltd.**

16, California (C)—San Francisco Police Monthly Tournament. Arthur P. Markgraf, 767 27th Avenue, San Francisco.

16, Texas (C)—Charro Days Rifle Tournament, at Brownsville. W. A. Heller, Mercedes.

22, North Carolina (C)—7th Annual Rifle and Pistol Tournament. John Pierczynski, Box 1952, Charlotte.

22, New York (Un)—Metropolitan 100 Yard Championship, at New York. Eric Bolton, 16 Storm Street, Dobbs Ferry.

22, Pennsylvania (C)—Second Annual February Small Bore Rifle Gallery, at Richboro. Fenton F. Thompson, 5527 Miriam Road, Philadelphia.

22-23, Ohio (B)—Annual Ohio Gallery Individual Championships, at Columbus. Bob Rarick, 1820 Eureka Drive, Dayton.

22-23, D. C. (Un)—6th Annual Indoor Rifle Championship Team Match. A. G. Hamilton, Room 4230, Marine Headquarters, Arlington Annex, Navy Dept., Washington, D. C.

28, Mar. 1-2. Connecticut (Un)—Conn. State Assn. Gallery Rifle Matches. A. J. Griffin, Conn. State Rifle & Rev. Assn., New Haven.

MARCH

2, Indiana (C)—First Registered Indoor Rifle Tournament. Ralph Coonfare, 948 Chicago Street, Hammond.

5-6-7-8 & 9, Florida (B)—National Mid-Winter Pistol Matches. National Mid-Winter Pistol Matches, Box 253, Tampa.

8-9, California (C)—Third Annual Spring Rifle Tournament, at Monterey Park. Gladys Rising, 600 North Mayo Avenue, Compton.

9, California (C)—Night Gallery Pistol & Revolver. H. O. Peters, 706 Third St., San Rafael.

14-15-16, Illinois (B)—Mid West Gallery Rifle Championships. Clarence E. Zink, 8827 So. Leavitt Street, Chicago 20.

16, California (C)—San Francisco Police Monthly Pistol Tournament. Arthur P. Markgraf, 767 27th Avenue, San Francisco.

16, D. C. (C)—National Capital Gallery Pistol Tournament, at Washington, D. C. T. G. Arnold, 5308 41st Place, Hyattsville, Md.

22-23, New York (C)—Metropolitan Rifle League Gallery Tournament. Eleanor Dunn, 2922 Concourse, New York 58.

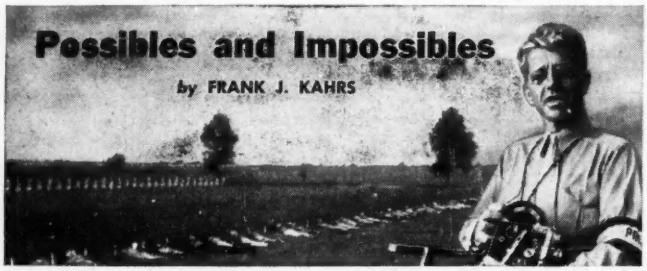
29, Pennsylvania (C)—Second Annual March Smallbore Rifle Gallery Tournament, at Richboro. Fenton F. Thompson, 5527 Miriam Road, Philadelphia.

29-30, New Jersey (C)—75 Foot Gallery Smallbore Tournament, at Union City. Beulah P. Hostetter, Cranford Hotel, Cranford.

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle

VOL. 10, NO. 2 BRIDGEPORT,



I wish I could tell you all that happened to me during my annual vacation in Florida in December but space does not permit. The weather was gorgeous and so I took advantage of the opportunity to test out a new 37 that I found quite by accident in the car upon arrival at destination, which was the West Coast of Florida and a lovely little town known as Clearwater, where they have a rifle club which has always intrigued me.

I've spoken of this before in the column and I will tell you again that it is my idea of an ideal layout. Not only a covered firing point but everything else is covered so that you don't have to step over to get back of the firing line, and they have increased the number of targets now to 40. It is always cool under this great big shed and you have a place to stack your rifle when you get up from the firing point, benches to sit on and all that sort of thing, so that's what we found when we lay down to try out this new 37 and some "hot" match ammunition which we brought along with us.

We learned something about conditions and found that even in Florida when the mirage stops running across the face of the target and boils up, that you had better make up your mind what to do and then when you have done it, you'll surely find that you were wrong. At one point we went over three inches and went smack into a "hot" nine at 9 o'clock where we were before. Ah! but we had a grand time trying to figure it all out, and we came away each day with the conviction that the postwar "match" ammunition and "match" rifles have lost nothing in accuracy and grouping qualities in the war years.

We envy the Clearwater Rifle Club members the opportunity to shoot throughout the winter months, and we're going back there someday to try and build a little house right by the range so we won't be too far removed from the firing point, and we're going to work out a lot of problems that have been bothering us for many years.

Some of my friends will remember what I have said about the effect of wind on the bullet at 100 yards. I have stated that if you will hold in the center and not try to dope the stuff, you will make a better score. I'm still of that opinion but it doesn't work at Clearwater . . . especially when the stuff boils up or suddenly stops running across the face of the target toward 9 o'clock. I know this is going to draw a smile from some of you fellows out there who have listened patiently to my remarks on the subject, and if you all get as much kick out of this confession as I do, it will be well worth the telling.

It was a grand vacation and we're now getting ready for a busy summer when we hope to have a normal supply of "match" ammunition and 37's that will all be "hot." . . .

* * *

Well, it's good news from Tampa, Florida! The Annual Midwinter Pistol Matches will be held in Tampa again March 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. So far as we can learn it will be set up about the same as it was before the war years and under the same dynamic management.

It's going to be a great shoot, so if you are a pistol shot, or about the first of March you begin to feel that your health is not so good and you need a vacation, which the doctor orders, be sure to send in your entry because they tell me a record crowd is expected.

I also understand that the week following Tampa, there is to be a shoot in Cuba, so while you are at it you might just as well plan to spend the balance of the winter in the South, and as old Judge Roy Bean west of the Pecos used to say, "And that's my decision!"

RIFLE AN
PROPOS

REMINGTON PISTOL AMMUNITION NOW MORE POPULAR THAN E

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., February 1947. Remington's complete line of pistol and revolver ammunition is enjoying greater popularity than ever before . . . for the simp son . . . it's accuracy a around performance an

Continuous developme Remington laboratory an listic testing departments brought constantly imp control over manufac processes that means t groups in 22's, 32's, 38's 45's. All Targetmaster tridges have been turning kind of groups that wil you top handgun compe

THERE'S ONE IN EVERY CLUB . . . *The Ammo Lo*

SMACK
FROM THE SCORES HE GETS - HE MUST BUY HIS AMMUNITION BY ITS FLAVOR.
HE SAYS IT HELPS STEADY HIS NERVES.
IF HE'D USE PALMA KLEANBORE 22 HIS GUN WOULD S CLEAN AND HE COU SAVE HIS LICKS FOR STAMPS!

Remington News

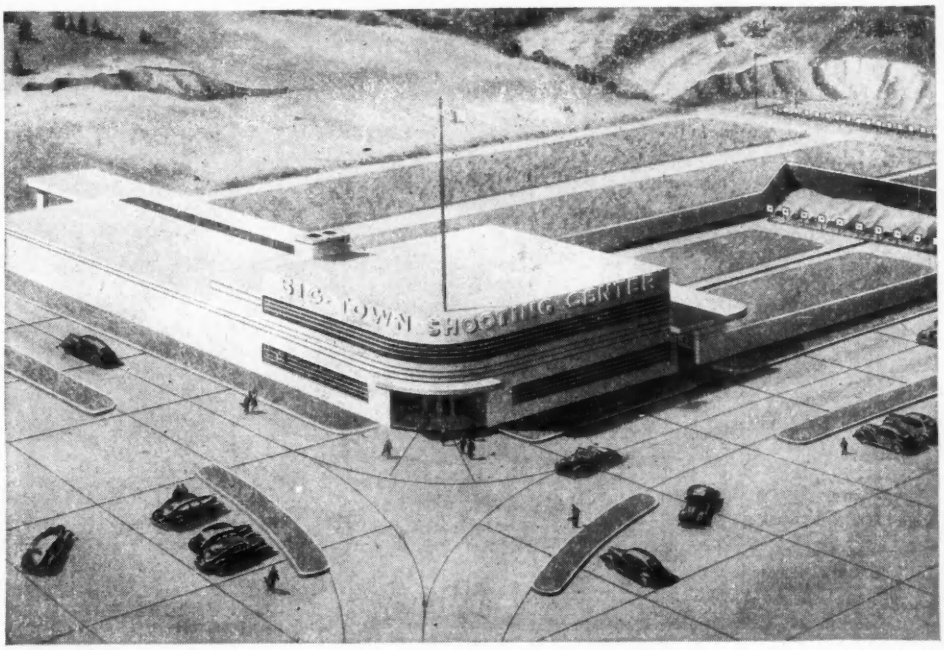
FEBRUARY, 1947

First Class Reading Matter for Rifle Shooters

WEATHER:
STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO GET "HOT" ON THE INDOOR RANGE

PISTOL CENTERS FOR LARGE CITIES

BIG POPULATION AREAS COULD SUPPORT MODERN RANGES AND RANGE EQUIPMENT



Artist's conception of shooting sports center in large city

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., February 1947. Interest in shooting and hunting sports knows no city limits, yet countless thousands of red-blooded sportsmen rarely have the opportunity to shoot because they live in large cities that do not have adequate facilities.

Live-wire rifle and pistol shooting promoters in many cities might well take a tip from one large midwestern city where it is reported plans are in preparation for a large sports center built around indoor shooting.

One conception of such a project would be a large modern building that could be located within easy reach of most parts of a city. Essential to success would be well-lighted indoor ranges for rifle and pistol shooting, club rooms, adequate toilet and lounge facilities, locker rooms for shooting clothes and firearms, and ample parking area. Such a shooting sports center probably would support a shooting gallery, sporting goods store, and cafeteria.

Should your city be interested in the possibilities of a shooting sports center, Remington will be happy to assist in any way possible with suggestions.

Targetmaster and Kleanbore are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.

ON LIGHTING YOUR INDOOR RANGE . . .

The practice of keeping firing points of an indoor range dark, and targets well lighted, has been found to contribute to eyestrain and fatigue, and is less satisfactory than lighting the entire range with a well-planned system of lights that permit the shooter to see his sights as well as the target.

An example of good lighting is found on the 50-foot range of an eastern university where sufficient light is used to illuminate the targets, with lights of less candlepower spaced at different distances from the targets, decreasing from seventy foot candles at the targets to about twenty at the firing line.

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Remington Powder Solvent is a favorite for cleaning bores and mechanisms of shotguns, rifles, pistols. 30¢ per can.

Remington Gun Grease. A light film protects metal surfaces against rust and corrosion. 15¢ per tube.

RICOCHETS

HUNTING RIFLE PREFERENCES

Fernie, B. C., Canada.

Editor:

Having been sneaking around the jackpines for twenty years, ten of which as a game warden, I want to take issue with Rinkenberger's "One Man's Meat." I have shot more grizzlies than I can count on my two hands—and I haven't lost any bears or fingers yet. These bears were shot with pea-shooters: 6.5mm, .30-'06, and lately the .270. If I could have only one rifle it would be the latter. I do not know ballistics as well as some. I load maximum charges and let it go at that. However, I do know that a 160 grain Barnes bullet in a .270 will shoot through a grizzly at two hundred yards and lengthways through a ram at three hundred. I know that anything that creeps or crawls, with the exception of Kodiak bears which I have not shot, that is hit behind the shoulder with a .30-'06 Western hollow point ain't around for long. I killed five moose with six shots from an 1895 Winchester .303 British.

As for the .303 not being a moose rifle, this gun has killed more Polar bears, moose, and walrus than any other rifle, with the possible exception of the lowly .30-30.

JIM OSMAN.

WHO'S PULLING WHOSE LAIG?

Poal Catt Crick, Oklahoamy.

Editor:

A coupla fellers come up from the store the other nite and set quite a spell a tellen me allabout what was in awl them magazines down thare at the General Store and P. O. It maid me shure wisht I could be down thare again with the fellers like I used to be when I could get around. Them fellers thay sed they had sean your December magazine and it had ona the best I mean the purtiest front covers on it that they had sean in a long time.

Them fellers said in general it seemed like the best addition your fellers up thare had got out since before the war. They spoke right highly of that issue in general. Now as I recollect they was one more thing they spoke about in partickular. They sed sum feller was a writen a lot of big windeys in thare about some man who shot at a reven on the wing about 200-300 yards oaff and knocked hymn cold with a .30-'06 and a year later went back and dun the same thing oaver—Now one time we do'nt mind so mutch but when a feller pulls our laig twice like we figger down hear it has gone too fer.

BILL APPLEBY.

REGISTRATION

Scarsdale, New York.

Editor:

The views expressed in the November issue of the RIFLEMAN by a correspondent from Middlesex, England, regarding the necessity of licenses for caliber .22 shooting, are decidedly in conflict with those of his countryman, Colonel Lord Cottesloe, C.B.

In his latest book, "The Englishman and the Rifle" (1946), Lord Cottesloe devotes four pages to the defects of the British Firearms Act of 1920. Some of his remarks are:

"Under this Act, those possessing them (.22 rifles) are obliged to obtain certificates from the police; anyone, however, who belongs to an officially recognized rifle club may use the rifles and ammunition belonging to the club without holding an individual firearms certificate, but no one may possess and use a .22 rifle and ammunition who does not hold such a certificate. The certificates have to be renewed every three years."

He goes on to say: "There was therefore as a result of the Act a very large reduction in the sale of .22 rifles all over the country, a matter which to question in the sale of .22 rifles all over the country, a matter which to the Bodkin Committee seemed to be of no importance. But it had most unfortunate results, for when the war made it necessary to raise all over the country the Local Defense Volunteers (afterwards the Home Guard), and rifles and ammunition of military pattern not available for them, while yet it was imperative to teach them to shoot, there was in all the rural areas an almost entire lack of the .22 rifles and ammunition which would have enabled training in preparation for the use of the military rifle to be carried out. It is not too much to say that this strangulation of the means of rudimentary training had a substantial effect in reducing the national capacity for defence at the most critical period in our history."

J. FOUNTAIN.

PHOTOGRAPHING BEAR

Petersburg, Alaska.

Editor:

I note with interest that you had photos that I am familiar with to accompany my "Big Game Rifles in Alaska" (October issue). It so happens that I was guiding the cameraman, Joseph Yolo, when the photo of the brownie on page 22 was made.

That photo is taken from a shot of motion picture 35 mm film, and shows an Admiralty Island brownie just as he discovered us and heard the camera running. It was a splendid shot in the movie. He was huffing and blowing some, but not belligerent, only cautious. The distance was about thirty feet, which is about as close as we usually let them get without letting them know where we are. We took thousands of feet of film of these bears in cover at close range, and while we made it a point finally not to let them get closer than about twenty-five feet, we did take a number of shots closer than this one. Contrary to the general "observations" given out by the story tellers we never had to shoot a bear in photographing hundreds of them. The only charges we have had and the only bears we have had to kill were those that were provoked, some deliberately.

HOSEA SARBER.

IMPORT DUTY ON BULLETS

Orange, N. J.

Editor:

Herewith a friendly warning to other riflemen, not to buy bullets from Canada, or probably from any outside country.

This because our custom service of the border has decided that bullets are of copper.

I ordered one hundred 100 grain .257 bullets for $3.00 and had to pay a duty of $1.35—45 per cent of the value—for "manufactured copper."

D. L. RIEGELS.

SHOOTING DOWNHILL

Buffalo, New York.

Editor:

On Page 20 of the December RIFLEMAN, fifth line from the bottom, "in that case the rifle will not shoot high" is incorrect, as gravity no longer acts at right angles to the bullet's flight.

LANGDON ALBRIGHT.

Mr. Albright's quote, prefaced with the statement that (when shooting downhill) "we can leave the trajectory out of the picture and assume that the game is at approximately the same range at which the rifle is zeroed," is vague. Trajectory cannot be left out of the picture when shooting downhill. When shooting between a level line of sight and a 45 degree downhill angle, trajectory drop increases as the angle increases. As the degree of angle approaches a vertical drop (90 degree angle for level line of sight) the trajectory lessens in proportion to the increase in angle. However, never can that angle, with the chance for overshooting the target, be ignored. There is no precise rule of thumb by which it can be determined accurately, since there are many factors to be considered: distance, windage, precise angle, and effect of gravity pull on a bullet fired from that angle. It is simply a case for judgment based upon experience.—ED.

STOLEN GUNS

9 mm. caliber Luger pistol #9172. Irving C. Boettger, 144 E. Auer Ave., Milwaukee 12, Wisconsin.

Model 1917 .30 caliber Enfield rifle #25107, as issued. Stolen in Chicago, Ill. Wilbur Poppe, Botkins, Ohio.

Winchester Model 52 #16407 with Winchester 5-A scope and Litschert #9 attachment. Marlin 39-A #C-2077 with 330 Weaver scope, forearm and pistol grip checkered. C. A. Brotherton, 504 Guilford Ave., Roanoke, Va.

Two Smith & Wesson .38 caliber Special Victory Model Revolvers, four-inch barrels, sand-blasted blue finish. Serial numbers V 151578 and V 148643. Lamont K. Cookson, American Can Company, 184 Read Street, Portland 5, Maine.

DOPE BAG

Conducted by Major General J. S. Hatcher
Edwards Brown, Jr., A. H. Barr, J. L. Murphy, J. S. Rose

Norwegian Model 1914 Pistol · Cases for the 9.3 x 72R · Cap for Telescope Sight Soft Punch for Finished Work · Stuck Bullet Jackets · Dangerous Practice · Strakonitz 1938 DA · Improvement on Powder Scale · Jacobs Shotgun Safety · Shorts in Long Rifle Cylinders · Trade Dope

NORWEGIAN MODEL 1914 PISTOL

I wonder if you can give me some information on a gun I have that looks to me like an exact copy of our own Government Colt .45. On the left side is stamped 11.25 mm. automatic pistol, Model 1914, while on the right side is stamped 1924. When this gun was captured from the Germans it was loaded with Western .45 automatic ammunition. I have used a few rounds of .45 ammunition in it and it really shoots well.

Norwegian Model 1914 Pistol

Now, is it safe and okay to use this ammunition right along? Were these guns produced in Germany or imported? Were there many made?

There are two queer marks on the left side, one is a crown with the number "7" in a rectangle under it. The other is a crown with the letter "H" under it. Are these proof marks?—PAUL G. RICHTMYER, Cameron Mills, N. Y.

Answer: You have the Norwegian automatic pistol, Model 1914, which is an exact duplicate of our old .45 Model 1911, except for the slide stop, which has a sort of an extension or tail to it, and the left grip, which has a cutout place to accommodate this extension. This gun is marked 11.25 mm., which in inches would be .443. Actually the barrel dimensions of this pistol are absolutely identical with those of the .45 Colt automatic and the gun is, in fact, a .45 caliber (our own .45 has a bore diameter of .443 to .444). When the Germans invaded Norway they obtained a number of these guns and called them P-657.

The letters and figures you describe are proof marks. The old English "H" with a crown over it stands for King Haakon of Norway.

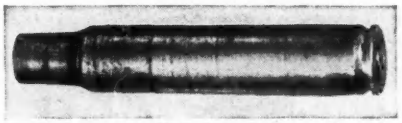
You can use the gun exactly the same as you would any other .45 Model 1911 pistol.—J. S. H.

CHECKING OLD BARRELS

This may be old stuff, but I have not heard of it elsewhere. When visiting secondhand gun shops, I always carry a small flashlight and a large reading glass. By shining the former down the breech and holding the reading glass against the muzzle, I get a clear and enlarged view of the bore. Pits and leading show up which would be unseen with the unaided eye.—J. A. GIFFORD, University City, Missouri.

EXAMPLE OF BAD GUNSMITHING

When you look at the enclosed cartridge case you will, no doubt, agree with me that some few persons who call themselves gunsmiths have very little knowledge of the subject. This .30-'06 case was fired in a regular Mauser military rifle that some crazy fool tried to rechamber into a .30-'06. The very idea, thinking that a .308 bullet could perform at all in a .323 barrel even though the chamber had been perfect.



I know there are lots of people who think that a gun will shoot if a shell drops in the chamber. To illustrate that fact, I recently saw two boxes of .300 Savage empties that were fired in an 8 mm. rifle, the only thing permitting them to fire was the extractor holding the shell back so the firing pin could strike it.

To show you I know what I am talking about, I was with the Niedner Rifle Corporation for two years and, since they quit gunsmithing, I bought all their reamers and tools and am good enough at the game, so they are recommending all their gun customers to me.—L. H. BROWN, Dowagiac, Mich.

Answer: The cartridge you sent is a horrible example of so-called chambering and the person firing this gun was taking his life in his hands. The proper cartridge to use in the German service rifle is the 8 mm. Mauser (8 x 57 mm.), which is ordinarily made and sold in this country by our leading manufacturers, but, like all other cartridges, is temporarily very hard to find. This is a very good hunting cartridge and if the owners of these guns will be patient enough to wait until they reappear on the market, they will avoid taking the risk of the destruction of a gun and possible serious personal injury.—J. S. H.

CASES FOR THE 9.3 x 72R

F. W. Beckert passes along the information of how he makes cases for his 9.3 x 72R rifle. He takes the .32 Winchester Special case and solders to the mouth a section of .351 Winchester, .357 S. & W. Magnum, or .38 S. & W. Special case. These remade cases cannot be full length resized, but will stand neck sizing. The sample he sent us looks very good. The cases should be inspected every time before reloading.

Beckert says his rifle shoots very well with Ideal gas-check bullet No. 358318 sized .362-inch diameter. The load is 25 grains du Pont No. 4759. He uses also the 200 grain Remington .35 caliber bullet and 26 grains Hercules Sharpshooter powder.

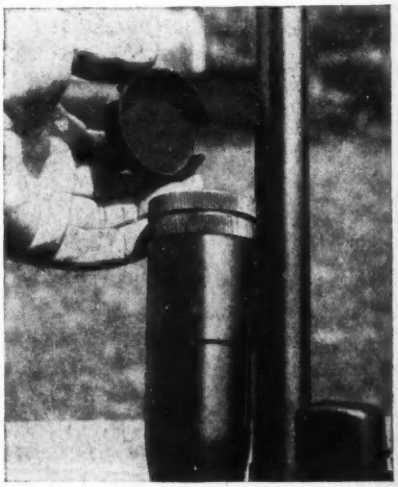
For a 9.3 x 62 mm. rifle he reswages the 180 grain .351 bullet or makes completely new bullets, using .38 Special empty cases for bullet jacket material. These special cases and bullets are made by Beckert for his own use and they are not for sale. The tip is passed along for those who might want to make their own cases.—A. H. B.

CAP FOR TELESCOPE SIGHT

The deeply mounted lenses of target scopes are nice when in the sun, but they are a nuisance when the lens is dirty. The regular use of a lens cap will help keep the lens clean. I have found that a cap that will slip over the end of the scope is more convenient to use and is more likely to be in place than the regular screw cap. When my rifle is in the rack at home or at a match, this cap is usually in place.

The plastic cap used on wide-mouth chemical jars is easily altered. I have used a metal lathe. A piece of wood at least twice the diameter of the cap is chucked in the lathe and a recess bored that will hold the cap tightly. Then the cap can be bored out with the regular tool. While I have never tried it, I think that it would be possible to hold the cap by a piece of wood fastened to a wood lathe faceplate and use the regular woodworking tools. The notch was filed in after the cap was fitted to the scope. This notch may be necessary to keep the cap from binding on the rifle barrel.

Since I made this cap, I have used it much more than the regular screw cap furnished with the telescope.—JOHN M. AVERY, Dexter, New York.



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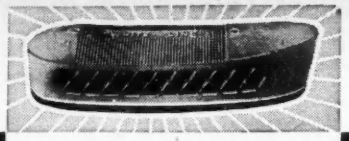

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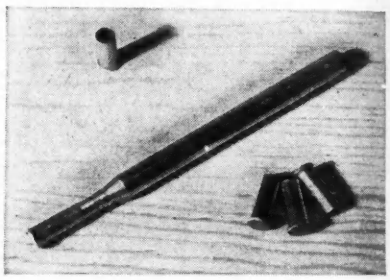
FRYIN' PAN BLUE JOB

The interesting article, "Some Notes on Home Workshop Bluing" by Al Barr, on page 29 of the September issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN prompted me to pass on the following suggestions for bluing those forgotten screws, pins, and small parts that failed to get into the bluing tanks along with the rest of that revolver or rifle. I call this "the fryin' pan blue job." Simply warm the parts over any gas burner flame and frequently dip them into cold bacon grease until the desired color is obtained. Believe it or not, it produces a beautiful jet black or blue finish that will last as long as any regular salt job.—JACK THOMPSON, Proprietor of Dave's Sporting Goods, Montrose, Calif.

SOFT PUNCH FOR FINISHED WORK

When removing sights, or doing similar work, it is desirable to have a punch made of some soft material that will not mark or damage the finished surfaces. A simple solution to this problem is to buy or make a punch that is just the right size to slip into an empty .22 caliber rim-fire shell. When one of the shells is damaged, it can be replaced. As rim-fire shells are made of both copper and brass, a material suited to the work can be chosen.—JOHN M. AVERY, Dexter, New York.



A punch which fits .22 caliber rim-fire shells for use on finished surfaces to avoid scratching

RIFLE STOCK DERMATITIS

The item "Poisoned by Jap Rifle Stock" on page 57 of the December, 1946, issue of THE RIFLEMAN has resulted in a number of comments from which the following are selected:

The publishing of my letter about the Jap stock made me think that you might be interested to know that on my Doctor's advice I was able to finish the job without further trouble by the use of a protective hand cream (du Pont Protek) plus the simple precaution of keeping my shirt well buttoned and always wearing a clean one.

One of the samples of the dust which produced a definite reaction in tests by the dermatologist came from a point at least ¼ inch deep, which should eliminate any effect from the surface dressing.—R. S. BYLIN, San Marino, Calif.

* * * The reason, I believe, is the fact that in the preservative used on these guns the Japs used a preparation something like our Cosmoline, but one of the ingredients is an extract of sumac.—J. S. WINTERS, Mare Island, Calif. (Swamp, or poison sumac acts just like poison ivy—ED.)

* * * A friend of mine had the same experience. He brought home a Jap rifle minus the stock, which he said, had been burnt to destroy the germs of which this wood is a

carrier and which had caused so much skin disease, and would even eat up a common pair of shoes in a week or less "for dessert." After two attacks the doctors checked his equipment and found the Jap stock guilty.—JOE BELL, Darlington, Wisc.

* * * My Mauser stock is of the laminated variety built up of ¼-inch strips of what looks like plywood. The wood is unvarnished and shows no signs of having had any surface dressing whatever.

A few days after finishing it I noticed an intense itching on the backs of my hands and on my arms up to the elbows, followed by a faint red rash and cracking of the skin. I have tried all the preparations I can think of and none seem to help. At present I have an awful looking pair of hands and arms.—JAMES K. MORLEY, New Britain, Conn.

STUCK BULLET JACKETS

As a rule I usually stay out of discussions of this nature, but in this case, for safety's sake, I feel obliged to "put in my three cents' worth."

I am referring to the letter in the December RIFLEMAN from J. T. Phillips, Durango, Colo., and your very sensible reply to him.

Some years back a friend and I were doing considerable shooting with .30-'06 rifles. Most of our game shooting was at jack rabbits and prairie dogs. As it was economical and easily available, we used mostly service ammunition. As a rule we pulled the service bullet and replaced it with the .30-30. We were using 150 grain hollow points.

However, like many others, we eventually got around to experimenting with flattening and hollow-pointing the service bullet. We were careful to bore only a shallow hole, for we had been warned about the danger of the jacket staying in the barrel.

One ideal afternoon we took about 50 rounds of our homemade, hollow-point cartridges to a local prairie dog town. The shooting was excellent and we certainly had no complaint to make about killing power. BUT, we took the precaution of inspecting the bore after each shot. And out of the 50 shots, we had three occasions when the jacket remained in the barrel. Just what the result would have been if another shot had been fired without removing this jacket, I do not know, and I have no desire to know. I do know though, that it would not have helped anything.—JOHN F. SHAW, Sanford, Texas.

* * * Anyway it happened to me; 150 grain .30 Government jacket stuck in the barrel after drilling 1/16 inch hole 3/16 inch deep. The next bullet blew the barrel out to about .38 caliber at a point about nine inches from the muzzle. The Springfield action held, of course, or I'd be dictating this instead of writing it myself. Anyway, it's pretty expensive shooting putting on new barrels every couple of hundred rounds.—C. G. MOEGLEIN, Minneapolis, Minn.

A DANGEROUS PRACTICE

A customer of mine is shooting .300 Savage ammunition in a Jap rifle. I can't talk him out of it. Can you tell me if his is one of the safe ones?—RALPH S. KNOWLES, D. H. Knowles & Son, North New Portland, Maine.

Answer: We certainly cannot recommend using the Savage .300 in the 7.7 mm. (.303) Jap rifle. The back of the case is fat enough to stop in the chamber within reach of the

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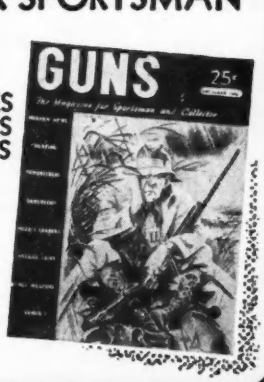

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firing pin, but the headspace shoulder on the .300 Savage is some ¼ inch or more shorter than that in the chamber, hence the headspace can be anything, depending on how far the cartridge goes in when chambered before it wedges itself in position.—J. S. H.

STRAKONITZ 1938 DA

I have what is apparently a Czech pistol, but I can't identify it. I have looked over all my issues of THE RIFLEMAN and several gun books, but find no reference to it. The barrel is locked to the receiver at the muzzle end, and the gun can apparently be fired only in the manner of a revolver. That is, it is not cocked automatically as it fires. The hammer travels forward with the receiver. On the left side of the slide it is marked Česká Zbrojovka AKC Spol V Praze, Serial No. 258726. On the right side it is marked E7 (proof mark) 39.—THOMAS E. INGRAM, Gibbsboro, N. J.

Answer: Your gun is the Czechoslovakian Strakonitz, Model 1938, self-loading pistol. While it is a self-loader, it is not semiautomatic because the hammer does not remain cocked after each shot. The gun has to be fired by a long pull on the trigger which cocks the hammer, then drops it after the manner of a double-action revolver. This gun has a locked breech, and uses the regular 9 mm. Short or .380 automatic Colt pistol cartridge. The gun is described on page 378 of W. H. B. Smith's book, "The NRA Book of Small Arms, Volume 1, Pistols and Revolvers."—J. S. H.

Czech Strakonitz 1938 DA pistol

SEASON CRACKING

I recently came into possession of some old .30-30 ammunition of commercial makes, and also some Frankford Arsenal ammunition dated 1918 and 1920, and I found a great number of these cartridges were cracked at the neck. The .30-30's are factory loads and I know have not been reloaded although I believe they are possibly fifteen or twenty years old, or even older. I have reason to believe that the F.A. '06's are also original loads as they were packed in original F.A. boxes and from the date would be approximately 26 years old. What would cause these cracks in the neck and would it be dangerous to shoot them in this condition?—ARTHUR HELFRICH, Rochester, N. Y.

Answer: Brass is softened by heating or "annealing" and gets harder by working it. Hard-worked brass is stronger than soft-annealed brass but is subject to what is called season cracking which is caused by aging and is aggravated by changes in temperature as the seasons go by. In making the neck of a cartridge case, a balance must be achieved between these extremes. The neck can be made

hard and elastic enough to grip the bullet firmly, in which case it is likely to crack in a relatively short time. Or it can be annealed to prevent this cracking, in which case it is difficult to make it grip the bullet sufficiently. The cases you have are season cracked. As long as the crack is in the neck only, the chances are you can fire these without having any gas escape, but by all means if you do fire them, wear shooting glasses.

The principal danger in firing such ammunition is the chance you run of having the bullets pushed back onto the powder when you chamber the cases in the gun. This would raise the pressure considerably. So, before firing any of these cases, try pushing on the end of the bullets to see if the crimp still holds well enough to keep the bullets from pushing back into the neck.

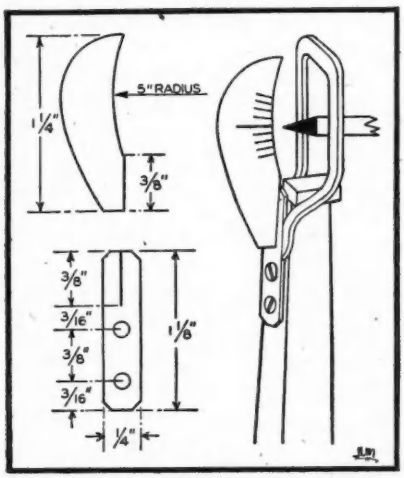
Also check on the condition of the powder by pulling out a couple of these bullets and seeing if the powder is all right. If the powder is caked or stuck together, do not fire any of them.—J. S. H.

IMPROVEMENT ON POWDER SCALE

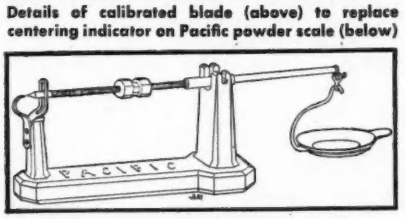
Sketches show an idea that is a worthwhile addition to a Pacific powder scale; it is easily and quickly made from a tin can. The gadget replaces the centering indicator on the scale.

Two pieces are cut from a flat piece of tin, and after holes are drilled, the blade is soldered to the base. The face of the blade should be painted white. The center line is then marked on, and the blade is calibrated using 1/10 grain weights.

In checking charges of powder, one can tell at a glance how much under or over the charge is without grappling with the tiny weights.—K. V. SCHERER, Evansville, Ind.



Details of calibrated blade (above) to replace centering indicator on Pacific powder scale (below)



VARMINTER VS. ARROW

What can you tell me about loading the 2-R Lovell with Remington 6½ primers? I have

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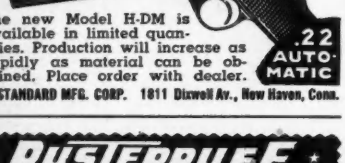

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no luck using the 54 grain Sisk; anything like a moderate heavy load will puncture the primers. I had to get down to 14.5 grains of No. 4198 before I was free from this trouble, then the groups are almost always enlarged by one or two very wild shots. The firing pin is perfect and I never have this trouble with the 116 Winchester primers, even with very heavy charges. Winchester 116 primers are very scarce, hence the question:

How do you think the .22-250 Varminter and the .220 Wilson Arrow compare?—DONALD STANDISH, Richland Center, Wisc.

Answer: There seems to be entirely too much difference in the performance of your 2-R Lovell when changing from the 116 to the No. 6½ primers. I know the latter will puncture a little more readily, but you should not have to use such light loads. Then, too, by using a lighter bullet, of 50 grains for example, that would be a better combination for the Lovell case. You must be sure that your firing pin is okay so that you can use the heavy load with the 116 primers.

In the way of accuracy a good .22 Varminter and the Wilson Arrow will be about equal. There really is not much from which to choose between the two. You can form down the .250 case in one operation in the full-length die and you can do the same for the .220 Arrow, but you cannot use factory ammunition in the Arrow chamber. It is really a tossup between the two when it comes to accuracy, but probably the Arrow would have slightly flatter trajectory up to 400 yards. Everyone who gets the Arrow seems to like it extremely well. It is made only by L. E. Wilson, of Cashmere, Wash.—A. H. B.

JACOBS SHOTGUN SAFETY

The Jacobs Automatic Safety Co., 1915 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., makes foolproof plastic gadgets which fit on the trigger guard of shotguns. The left side is hinged and it has a projection which automatically goes into place between the trigger guard and trigger, thus blocking the trigger.

The trigger finger moves the hinged section to the left and then the gun can be fired. The first time we tried this safety on a Model 12 Winchester it seemed a trifle slow and awkward, but after a few shots the safety did not interfere, even on the fast shots at dove and quail.

This automatic safety would be just the thing for any shooter who carelessly carries his shotgun with the regular safety off. We have seen only two models, one for the Winchester Model 12 and one for the Remington autoloader.—A. H. B.

SHORTS IN LONG RIFLE CYLINDERS

"Due to the unstable ammunition situation and the scarcity of .22 Long Rifle loads, I have been using .22 Shorts of Leader and Western Expert make, which I understand are of intermediate velocity, in my S. & W. Masterpiece of prewar manufacture with fine results on our indoor range. What quantity of these loads would you estimate it would take to erode the cylinder chambers to cause trouble with extraction with Long Rifle cases?"—CHARLES W. PAYNE, Rochester, N. Y.

Answer: It will take thousands of rounds of .22 Shorts fired in the six chambers of a revolver cylinder to erode them sufficiently to cause extraction difficulties with the Long Rifle cartridge. One reason is that the present-day

noncorrosive rim fires are not nearly as erosive as the old ammunition. Keep a brass or bristle brush handy and clean the powder residue out of the cylinders after using the gun so it does not build up and cause corrosion. This is hardly likely with the present-day ammunition, but it is a good idea to remove that fouling in the chambers, anyway.—A. H. B.

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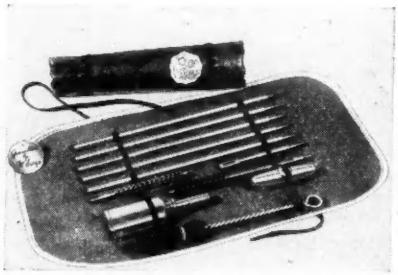
The Universal Engineering Co., 2230-32 National Ave., San Diego, California, has two products for the shooter. These are Ol' Sarge gun oil and Ol' Sarge cleaning rods.

The gun oil, known by its military designation as L-1165M withstood our severe immersion salt brine test very well. This test is very severe for a light oil and any samples which will last five days or more before the first signs of rust appear are in the top protection bracket. Ol' Sarge went six days and then advancement was very slow with only several small rust spots appearing on the steel after 14 days on test. This is a lubricating oil in addition to being a rust preventive.



Ol' Sarge cleaning kit

The Ol' Sarge swivel-handled cleaning rods are jointed, brass-alloy rods and are available for .22, .30, and .45 caliber. There are also two shotgun sizes; .410 to 20 gauge and 20 to 10 gauge. A special tip section, in .30 caliber at least, is threaded for standard Ol' Sarge bronze or bristle brushes, or an eye-type patch holder. The special tip also has a serrated section for holding a cleaning patch. The jointed shotgun rods are furnished with expanding-type Neoprene patch tips.

There are three kits from which to choose. The DeLuxe is the complete cleaning outfit in hardwood case. The same material is in a leatherette roll-up kit. The third is the rod and a bronze brush in a waterproof cloth case. These cleaning rods are distributed by the LaSalle Sales & Mfg. Co., 922 Book Building, Detroit, Michigan.

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103	Marlin Model 81DL .22 Bolt Action Repeater. New	25.55
104	Custom Mauser .257 Roberts Bolt Action Sporter. Weaver K4 Scope. Monte Carlo Stock. Excellent	185.00
105	Mannlicher-Schoenauer 9.5mm. Bolt Action Custom Sporter. Very Good	150.00
106	Sauer Custom Sporter .375 H. & H. Magnum. Raised Matted Rib Barrel. Double Set Triggers. Monte Carlo Stock. Excellent	300.00
107	Winchester Model 54 Sporter with Litschert Eagle Scope .22 Hornet. Very Good	165.00
108	Custom Mauser .30/06 Sporter. Monte Carlo Stock. Excellent	150.00
110	Smith and Wesson .38 Special Revolver. Military and Police Model. Blued. Square Butt. State choice of 2, 4, 5 or 6" Barrel. New	56.50
111	H. & R. Sportsman .22 Target Revolver, 6" Barrel. Blued. New	47.95
115	Belgium Browning Automatic Shotgun. 12 Gauge. New	103.90
116	Winchester Model 12 Repeater. 26" Barrel with Cutts Comp. and any 2 choke tubes. New	100.50
117	Winchester Model 97 Repeater. 26" Barrel with Cutts Comp. and any 2 choke tubes. New	83.50
118	Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight Repeater. 28" modified or full choke barrel. 12, 16 or 20 Gauges. New	78.50
119	L. C. Smith Field Grade Double. 12 Gauge 30", or 16 Ga. 28". New	96.10
120	H. & R. Single Barrel Shotgun. 12, 16 or 20 Gauges. New	20.85
121	Ithaca $1745.85 Grade Model 37 Featherlight Repeating Shotgun. 12 Gauge 30" full choke. Ventilated Rib. The World's Most Beautiful Gun! New	1200.00
126	Winchester Model 74 Automatic Rifle. 24" barrel. Takedown. Magazine holds twenty .22 short regular or hi-speed cartridges. Brand New	29.90
127	Crossman .22 Air Rifle. Single Shot. Shoots .22 Super Pellets. Adjustable power. New	19.80
128	Hy-Score Air Pistol. Target Model. .22 or .177. Thumbrest grips. With 500 pellets. New	25.00
129	Ithaca 1947 Model Double Barrel Shotgun, 5E grade with all extras, plus special engraving. 12 Gauge, 30 inch, improved cylinder and full choke	528.51

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KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS, 229 TE W. Washington, Chicago 6

I'm interested in gun No .....
Will Trade ( ) or Sell ( ) for cash the following. Please quote your best price, subject to inspection. (Give make, model, gauge, caliber, condition, etc.)

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Please send me the following (check, M.O. enclosed):

..... Copies 3rd Annual Edition of The Gun Digest as soon as ready @ $1.25

..... Copies of 2nd Annual Edition of The Gun Digest @ $1.25 (Immediate Delivery)

..... Copies Fishing Tackle Digest @ $1.25

..... Copies Practical Manual of Guns @ $1.50

..... Copies Fly Fishing @ $1.50

( ) Send me latest Klein's Sporting Goods Catalog, including list of available new and used guns and detailed information on gun trading. I enclose 25¢ (refunded with first order).

Write name, address and any further information on separate sheet and attach.

PFEIFER-MADE

RIFLE BARREL BLANKS

Pfeifer barrel blanks are made from a special analysis, electro furnace high flash, high abrasion resistant tool steel, heat treated to a tensile strength of 130,000 PSI. Stress relieved before drilling, Rockwell C hardness 25-29, machinability rating 70. Should give little or no trouble with warpage or distortion under normal machining procedure and will in no way harm or wear chambering equipment to any greater degree than previously used barrel steels. Conclusive tests have shown you can expect 50 to 80% longer barrel life than that delivered by ordnance steels. Blank dimensions 28" long, 1¼" diameter.

Calibers 300 and smaller are 6 groove, right hand twist of narrow land and wide groove designed to cause as little finning and deformation of the bullet as possible and still impart perfect accuracy. Calibers above 300 are optional 6 or 8 groove. These barrels are very smoothly cut and require no lapping. For those who must have it blanks will be furnished lapped at an additional charge of $1 each. Approximate 3 day delivery on calibers 22, 25, 270, 7mm, 30, 375, and 38-55. Calibers 256, 32, 35, 40 and 45 special order subject to some delay. Special twist subject to some delay. Prices $21.50, F.O.B. Beverly Hills.

Discount to dealers and gunsmiths.

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9582 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, California

The **Best** *of Everything for the Sportsman*

NIEDNER BUTT PLATE

of

CHECKERED STEEL

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This popular Butt Plate is used by shooters everywhere. Sharp, clean-cut checkering. Case hardened for durability. Size: 1-9/16" x 5-1/8". $2.00 each.

Dealers write for quantity discount.

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DOWAGIAC MICHIGAN

CUSTOM STOCKING

Military conversions. Am tooled up for most sporting calibers. Beautiful Bluing a specialty. Light weight sporting rifles. Fine walnut stocks.

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SADDLE LEATHER HOLSTERS

...Also cartridge belts, shell cases, western saddles, other saddle leather products. Made by pioneer Western saddle makers since 1857. Ask your dealer or write for catalog.

THE GEORGE LAWRENCE CO., Portland 4, Ore.

Edwin W. Wier, who nearly thirty years ago became interested in gun repairing, has opened a new establishment called the Wier Gun Shop of 223 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Mich. He will be assisted in his new business venture by his son, Raynard, a veteran of eleven months with ETO combat record.

☆ ☆ ☆

Harris Machine Shop, 402 West Beverly Boulevard, Whittier, California, has a new mailing address: 622 South Greenleaf, Whittier, Calif. The plant plans to move from Whittier to Rivera.

☆ ☆ ☆

Bill Kirsh of the American Gun Works, 1284 Sunset, Los Angeles, Calif., has announced the manufacture of a new-type front sight for shotguns. Bill states that it is easy to install and sells for only fifty cents and gives the advantages of quicker sighting and more game with fewer shots.

☆ ☆ ☆

Dem-Bart Company, P. O. Box 700, Tacoma 1, Wash., is putting out a very helpful gunsmith's tool called the Dem-Bart Sear Test Blocks. The set consists of two solid-steel blocks, each with one side plain for a base, and having two pins projecting from each of the other five sides. Each working face is marked with the name of some popular handgun, for example S&W "K," and the pins are of the proper size and are correctly spaced for the hammer and trigger to fit on them, the same as they do in the gun. Thus hammers, sears, and triggers can be checked for pull, creep, and correct alignment. A set of these blocks is almost indispensable to anyone doing such work as short-action conversions and any alterations to trigger pulls.

Dem-Bart is also bringing out a floating firing pin for the old Colt Single Action Army Revolver. This is easily installed by removing the recoil plate and replacing it with the Dem-Bart floating firing pin and recoil plate assembly.

☆ ☆ ☆

A. C. Cornelison, of Scottsboro, Ala., writes that he is back in the knife business again after his return from service in the Army. He makes a short-blade, short-handle knife that is unusually handy and effective.

☆ ☆ ☆

L. L. Bean, the well-known sporting goods dealer of Freeport, Maine, received high praise at a testimonial dinner recently tendered to him on L. L. Bean Day.

Governor Hildreth and other speakers said that Mr. Bean has contributed much to Maine through his internationally known business and his unique catalog.

☆ ☆ ☆

V. H. Blackinton & Co.'s Gene Mitchell announces that Blackinton is forced to increase the price of their Blackinton Shooting Awards for the first time since 1941, effective February 1. Increased costs of labor and materials make this imperative. Also, no 1947 Blackinton catalog will be issued due to existing conditions. New awards will be announced from time to time during the year.

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Transactions Based on Good Faith: ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in disbarment from the NRA in the case of members.

2. All Orders Subject to These Conditions: WE reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

3. Who May Advertise: The ARMS CHEST is an open market trading post. Any individual or firm whose advertisement and methods of doing business meet our requirements may advertise their goods or Services.

4. Rates: All advertisements must be accompanied by remittance. The rate is 20 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00.

5. Definite Prices Must be Stated: A specific price must be stated on all items offered in FOR SALE and SELL or TRADE ads—except that the phrase "write for catalog" or "write for price list" may be used when listing merchandise in quantities.

6. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Box number or blind ads will not be accepted. Give your complete name and address, to insure prompt delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

7. Firearms for Sale or Trade Must Be Defined: The *condition* of every gun (including essential parts) advertised for sale or trade, *must* be specified according to *NRA standards*, as follows: PERFECT—meaning factory condition; EXCELLENT—meaning new condition, implying negligible amount of use; VERY GOOD—meaning practically new condition, implying little use, with no appreciable bore wear and only minor surface scratches or wear; GOOD—meaning moderate use with some finish worn off, only moderate bore wear, with no pits and nothing worse than a little roughness in the bore; FAIR—meaning no parts missing necessary to use of gun, reasonable wear inside and out, nothing worse than minor pits in steel or stock, gun sufficiently accurate for hunting. POOR—meaning marred appearance and pitted or badly worn bore.

8. Non-Specific Phrases Barred: Phrases such as "highest" or "top prices paid," as well as any other so-called "auction-type" phrases are not acceptable. The terms "fair price paid" or "state price wanted" may be used.

9. "Outlawed" Firearms Defined: The sale of certain firearms is outlawed by Federal law unless handled by a Federally licensed dealer. These include machine or submachine guns; sawed-off rifles and shotguns with barrels of less than 18" and Mauser and Luger auto pistols *with holster stocks.*

10. Requesting Privilege of Examination: We *insist* that purchasers desirous of examining merchandise before acceptance request shipment by express C. O. D. with examination privilege. This procedure permits the purchaser to inspect the merchandise *in local express office* and authorizes the express company to return unsatisfactory merchandise at shipper's expense.

11. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). (Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters likewise are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith; H. B., meaning heavy barrel; HP., meaning highpower). Hyphenated words are counted as two words (examples: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

12. Responsibility for Illegible Copy: Type or print advertisements plainly, as we can not be responsible for errors due to illegible writing.

13. Closing date: All advertisements must be received by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: the 1st of February for the March issue. Ads *received* after the 1st of February, *and not later than the 1st of March* will be inserted in the April issue.)

FOR SALE

LARGE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN AND European antique arms. Send 25 cents in coin for our 14th edition catalog featuring the Brown collection of Kentucky rifles. We buy whole collections or single pieces. Fair prices paid. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf

JOHNSON BARRELS FOR GUNSMITHS—(1) Blanks only—will finish to 24" long-machined only—not chambered or threaded—bore finished in calibers .22, .25, .27, .30, suitable for all loads in these calibers, $20.00 each. (2) Same as (1) above but "rough chambered" i.e. chambers held back ¼" from final depth, calibers .257, .270, .30-06, $25.00 each. (3) Same as (1) above, but finish chambered and threaded for Mauser, Enfield or Springfield actions, calibers .257, .270, 30-06 (in ordering, action should be sent to our plant to insure proper thread fit), $30.00 each. (4) Same as (3) above, with outside finished to Johnson Target Sporter specifications, 24" long, weight 2½ lbs., calibers .257, .270, .30-06, $35.00 each. (5) Same as (3) above, with outside finished to Johnson Featherweight sporter specifications, 22" long, weight 1¾ lbs. calibers .257, .270, .30-06, $35.00 each. All the foregoing are new barrels manufactured since the war, and suitable for conversions of military rifles to sporters. Dealer's Discount of 25% applies on above listed items. Johnson Automatics, Providence 1, Rhode Island. tf

BUILD YOURSELF A CAPLOCK "SPORTER." You need only an old 45-70 Springfield, one of our new muzzle-loading barrels, and a few accessories. Descriptive details and list on request. (Stamp, please). James Serven, Santa Ana, California. tf

UNIVERSAL PRISM BINOCULARS 6X30 LIKE new w/leather compass case. $50.00. Mauser .22 rifle custom stocked, sling, $50.00. Mauser 8mm. custom sporter; ribbed barrel new, $125.00. Springfield 30-06 custom deluxe sporter $135.00. Springfield 30-06 custom sporter $115.00. Bargains all. c. Dr. W. Gerard rifle scope with leather case, mechanically perfect $75.00. The Sport Shop, Box 430, Waterbury, Conn.

SHOOT WITH A MUZZLE CAP ON YOUR rifle, shotgun, pistol and play safe. Positively keeps bore of firearm free of dirt, moisture, snow, dangerous obstructions, under all firing conditions, range or afield. Simple to use. No effect accuracy, breech pressure. Made of Neoprene. This sensational gadget, endorsed everywhere, makes ideal scope cover also. Shooters'. Get your season's supply by return mail, 35¢ dozen, or 3 dozen for $1.00 postpaid. State whether for rifle, pistol, shotgun, scope. Woodford Mfgr. Co., Lyndhurst, Ohio. tf

WE BUY, SELL, TRADE SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, revolvers, ammunition, outboard motors. Scaramuzzo, 601 South Halsted, Chicago 7. 3-47

SHOOTING M.L'S TARGET, PLAINS, KENtuckies, shotguns, and antiques. Reasonable. Stamp for list. Hamilton, 1354 Norwood, Chicago 40, Illinois. 2-47

SHOTGUNS—TRADERS MONTHLY BULLETIN —Sample 10¢. Shotgun News, Columbus, Nebraska. 2-47

ILLUSTRATED 172 PAGE CATALOG OF ANtique firearms and edged weapons 50¢. Robert Abels, 860 Lexington Ave., New York 21, New York. 1-48

GARAGE WITH ALL EQUIPMENT AND STOCK for sale with five room bungalow type house. Wonderful business established twenty-five years, all complete $11,000.00. Wiley E. Miles, Lewellen, Nebraska.

USE THE NEW GAS PROOF GUN WAD FOR mild recoil close even pattern unusually long range, $4.00 per M. Packed in 1000 lots 500⅛", 250⅛C, 250 thin c, send remittance. E. G. Snyder, Rt. #2, Reading, Penna. tf

ALWAYS A GOOD STOCK OF COLLECTORS Arms and Visitors always welcome. House of Guns, 34 Alpine Place, Kearny, N. J. 2-47

INVENTORS: SOUND, PRACTICAL FISHING, hunting or other sports inventions, patented or unpatented, are urgently needed by sporting-goods manufacturers who have requested our assistance in locating marketable new products. Complete information free. Institute of American Inventors, Dept. 131, 1926 Eye St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. tf

CASWELL TARGET CARRIERS GIVE THE shooter every possible point because they hold the target steady and require no exertion to operate. Fully equipped with speedy ball-bearing pulley wheels and target holders for every type of indoor paper rifle or pistol targets. Government Priority not required. Caswell Target Carriers, Anoka, Minnesota. tf

COLT ACE .22 AUTOMATIC, HOLSTER AND extra clip, perfect $90.00. Alvin R. Marcussen, 901 Starr St., Peoria, Illinois.

REVOLVERS, MINERALS, STAMPS, COINS, glass, Indian relics, catalog 5¢. Cowboy Lemly, Las Cruces, New Mexico. tf

ANTIQUE FIREARMS CATALOG FEATURING the Price, Waid and other collections of Kentuckies, Militaries, Colts and other handguns and accessories, 25¢. T. J. Cooper, Port Royal, Penna. 2-47

AMMUNITION—NEW AND USED SHOTGUNS, rifles, revolvers, pistols, fishing tackle, list 10¢. Dept. N. R. Rudolphs, Atchison, Kansas. 12-47

MUZZLE CROWNING BRASS BALLS, STEEL shank, set of four sizes, 11/32, 7/16, ½ and 5/8; postpaid $2.50. Ray Tiffany, 5613 Alameda, El Paso, Texas. tf

.250-3000 SAVAGE 99E.G., K2.5, STITH MOUNT, new, $175.00. L. L. Christensen, 215 South Bozeman, Bozeman, Montana.

CASES. 8MM. .257, .22-250, LARGE LIST, many others. E. L. Jewett, 511 No. Workman, San Fernando, California. 4-47

THE REVOLVER TIMING RECORD—A 10 INCH RCA-Victor phonograph record. Practice timed and rapid fire anywhere, BY YOURSELF. Nothing to watch—just listen. For "Dry" shooting, basement and outdoor ranges. One side 10 second timing, other side 20 second timing. Plays on any phonograph. $1.50 postpaid. The Original Sight Exchange, Box J, Paoli, Penna. 2-47

OUR LIST OF MODERN ARMS WILL BE SENT on receipt of three cent stamp. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf

CATALOG OF ANTIQUE PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, guns, rifles, edged weapons, armor, accessories, books and antiques, listing over 1200 items with 60 photo plates, illustrating over 850 items for sale in the catalog. Price $1.00. H. A. Brand, 704-G, Ingalls Bldg., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. 8-47

TENTS—NEW U. S. ARMY PYRAMIDAL 16X16 ft suitable for winter or summer camping, each complete with poles and stakes. Bargain at $55.00. Naval Company, Doylestown, Penna. 2-47

THROWING KNIVES, FINELY HANDCRAFTED, perfectly balanced, made from finest steel. With complete throwing instructions, $1.50, plus 10¢ postage, packing. F. B. Stark, 1718M Walnut, Allentown, Penna. 2-47

.45-70-500 SMOKELESS CARTRIDGES, $1.90 PER box. $9.00 per 100. Headless shell extractor for the .45 cal. Springfield rifle and carbine 75¢ each. G. I. Rubber slipon recoil pads 90¢ each. Dept. R, Bolin's Gun Shop, 9 Grand Street, South Amboy, New Jersey. tf

5¢ per word

for 140,000 additional circulation!

The old rate of 15¢ per word for classified ads was established when THE RIFLEMAN'S circulation was less than 90,000. Print order for *this* issue is over 230,000. So the present rate increase is only 5¢ per word for an additional 140,000 circulation!

Beginning with the next available issue, April (final closing date March 1), the rate for all classified advertising is NOW 20¢ per word.

IF YOU LIKE FIREARMS, YOU'LL LOVE THIS BOOK: "THE KENTUCKY RIFLE"

New, Enlarged Third Edition

INVALUABLE FOR:	IDEAL FOR:
Collectors	Shooting prizes
Antique dealers	Gifts for shooters
Students (history)	Libraries
Gunsmiths	Clubrooms

Captain Dillin's classic now contains information, pictures, and detailed descriptions of more than 20 newly popular, highly prized, authentic Kentucky Pistols.

If you haven't yet discovered the shooting pleasure you can get by reading about rifles, pistols, shooting of all sorts, you've got a world of fun in store for you as you accumulate your shelf of shooting books. And the number one book on your shelf should be "The Kentucky Rifle."

This great classic is filled with fascinating facts, documented information, specific details and pictures of the first American-made rifle—the first really accurate rifle the world ever knew. When you read about this truly astounding firearm that was developed on our 1730 frontier—when history shows you that without it we probably would have lost the Revolutionary War—when you read the pages of this book, you actually thrill to the realization that right here in America rifles that were made by hand to meet the needs of the frontier can still outshoot many rifles in use today.

"The Kentucky Rifle" is a book every American—not just collectors or muzzle-loaders—will enjoy, because it is the story of American manufacturing on the frontier and practical American pioneer marksmanship.

The heavy, crude, badly sighted guns that the early colonists brought from Europe simply did not fill the needs of the American frontier of 1700, and our pioneer ancestors looked to the gunsmiths around Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for the rifle they needed. Today these rifles are prized possessions of shooters everywhere. And the one authoritative book about the Kentucky rifle and pistol will be prized by everyone who is fortunate enough to get a copy.

Haven't you often wondered just how those old gunsmiths welded iron bars into barrels and then rifled them by hand so that their best would shoot inch-and-a-half groups at 100 yards? Captain Dillin explains in detail, with photographs of the crude tools they used to turn out rifles that were just shy of perfection.

Filled with Facts

For the collector and antique dealer its information concerning the manufacturing characteristics of the various riflesmiths—and a long, authentic list of their names and localities—is absolutely invaluable. There is also helpful, money-saving information on how to recognize spurious "Kentuckies" and forgeries.

For every American, this book will bring a fascinating, detailed story of one of the most important—and romantic—periods in American history—and the American-made rifle that made it possible.

There are twenty-one chapters packed with specific, authoritative, documented details and information covering every aspect, from manufacture to actual shooting results . . . why this Pennsylvania frontier-made rifle became the "Kentucky" rifle—how virgin iron was smelted, shaped, welded into barrels—how these were rifled with straight cut, gain twist, spiral grooves with hand tools and water wheels—details of locks, sights, triggers, horns, powder, bullets, accuracy on targets and effectiveness on game—how backwoodsmen armed with "Kentuckies" were deciding factors in Revolutionary victories. Much more fascinating reading.

The chapter on the Revolutionary War will give any boy or girl a new interest in American history as well as marksmanship, and will provide source material for prize-winning essays. No school, college or public library or museum should be without a copy.

Your Collection in Book Form

The arms curator of a world-famous museum (name on request) states: "Dillin's book is its own best recommendation. All competent students consider it authoritative. Any book dealing with artistic, historical, and technical information which is not superseded in over a score of years is necessarily indispensable to the student. Dillin's 'The Kentucky Rifle' is such a book."

The fast-growing interest in Kentuckies has put even a modest collection far beyond the means of most of us. But this book, with its remarkable pictures, gives you—in effect—an invaluable collection of your own. Since many of the collections Dillin photographed have been broken up and spread far and wide, it will never again be possible to collect—even to be photographed—such outstanding examples.

New—Kentucky Pistols

Every shooting man, woman or teen-ager who can read or look at pictures—whether he's a small-bore or big-bore shooter, hunter, pistoleer, gun crank, gunsmith or collector—will discover endless hours of shooting pleasure in the pages of this remarkable book about this remarkable American rifle. Originally sponsored and published by the National Rifle Association, "The Kentucky Rifle," long out of print, reappears in handsome new dress, in a handy new size, with the first widely published information on the rare, popular and highly prized Kentucky Pistols. The pictures and descriptions of these authentic specimens are well worth the price of the book because they will help you identify and evaluate these pistols when buying and selling. And even if you don't collect, you'll want to know all you can about the unique American pistol which was the ancestor of our martial pistols.

Beautifully Boxed . . . $10

You can smoke and drink away ten dollars in a few weeks—or one night on a bender. But ten dollars for a copy of "The Kentucky Rifle" will give you a lifetime of pleasure that you can pass on to a friend, son or daughter at anytime and give them years of pleasure. . . . You'll be delighted—and so will they—to own a book that you can be proud to display in your home and show to your friends . . .

The new edition contains 300 pages, eight by eleven inches, or a trifle larger, and bound in fine, blue Devron, with the title stamped in gold. Packed in handsome, sturdy, gold-labeled slip case for permanent protection and lasting beauty. Don't delay! Ten dollars per copy by mail, or at your bookstore. Send check or money order today. Supply limited.

391 East 149th St., New York 55, N. Y.

LUDLUM AND BEEBE

PUBLISHERS

NEW GUNS, SCOPES, MOUNTS, RELOADING tools, powder, bullets, ammunition, gun books, etc. Illustrated and descriptive catalog showing many items and latest prices including over twenty pages on Winchester firearms; postpaid for $1.00. Louis Rinquette, Grants Pass, Oregon. 3-47

RIFLES, SHOTGUNS AND HANDGUNS. NEW and used. Largest stock in New Hampshire. List dime. The Green Store, No. Haverhill, New Hampshire. 3-47

CARTRIDGE COLLECTORS, MY NEW LIST #11 now available. Send 20¢. Carl Metzger, 2305 Canton Street, Dallas 1, Texas. 2-47

NEW LIST OF MUZZLE LOADING RIFLES. Also cap and ball revolvers for shooting. 3¢ stamp please. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf

SPRINGFIELD SERVICE, NEW BARREL, $65.00. New Springfield n. s., 48 rear, issue front, no stock, $85.00. 1898 Mauser, turned bolt, new 30-06 barrel, remodeled stock, no sights, $70.00. .45 Colt S. A. 7½" excellent in, very good out, ivory grips $60.00. Wesley Bates, Broad River Road, Columbia, So. Car.

WINCHESTER, MODEL 12, 16 GAUGE, NEW Poly Choke, recoil pad, good, $70.00. Accept 410 in trade. H. B. Gould, Box 570, Youngstown, Ohio.

WINCHESTER 70 SWIFT, EXCELLENT $115.00. Noske 2½X, perfect $39.50. Empty .220, 7mm. 30-06 cases, 3¢ each. T. Stromberg, Artesia, New Mexico.

RELOADING LUBRICANTS: IPCO COLLOIDAL graphite ribbon wads $1.00 box; Ipco bullet lubricant $1.00 box. Special discount to dealers. Industrial Products Co., W. W. Perkins, Prop., Box 14, Wakefield, Mass. tf

IF YOU WANT, 7.7 JAP, 8MM. MAUSER, 9MM. Austrian Steyr, or Luger loads, write for list. George W. Spence, Steele, Missouri.

23D HORNET, EXCELLENT CONDITION, 330 Dot, Redfield, sling, 150 handloads, $125.00. John Bealle, 4014 Kansas Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.

WINCHESTER HI-SIDE 2R LOVELL, MEDIUM heavy barrel, double set triggers, beautiful custom stock and forearm, scope blocks, perfect inside, excellent out, with dies for Schmidt or Pacific tool, primers, powder, cases and bullets, $125.00. Winchester M12 20 gauge, 26" improved modified, new, never fired, $95.00. Winchester 52 sporter, Jr. Redfield mounted K2.5, sling, perfect inside, excellent out, $150.00. Winchester M70 .270, Stith mounted Noske 4X, Tilden safety, trigger shoe, perfect inside, excellent out, sling, Pacific dies, thirty rounds factory, seventy handloads, 200 bullets, 200 primers, $200.00. Browning over and under trap grade, 32" ventilated rib barrels bored improved modified and full, single selective trigger and ejectors, custom Monte Carlo stock and forearm by Fred Etchen, 1½"x1½"x2"x14½", perfect inside, excellent out, with trunk type case $300.00. G. F. Snider, Box 213, Connersville, Indiana.

20 GA. REMINGTON 11A—VERY GOOD, CUTTS comp. 3 tubes, case Super X 6's $150.00. F.O.B. Orange City, Iowa. Charles J. DeVries.

10 GAUGE, NEW PRIMED EMPTY SHELL cases, 2 9/16", $3.00 per 100. #57 Remington shotgun shell primers, $5.00 per 1000. #11 percussion caps, Remington Shur Fire, 1945 manufactured for small nipple percussion revolvers, rifles, and shotguns, $2.50 per 1000. Rifle slings, brand new, all leather, Whelen type, 3 sizes, ⅞", $1.50, 1", $1.65, 1¼" $2.00. Web rifle slings, used, U. S. Army good condition, 49¢ each. U. S. Government prismatic compass, excellent condition with leather case $5.95. Hunter's compass, all metal, watch type, jewelled, $2.50 each. Engineers' all metal Army type hand-sighting levels, $1.50 each. Cleaning rods, all metal, 3 piece, calibers 22 to 27 and 30 to 50, special, $1.25 each for rifle. Brand new folding valise knapsacks made of heavy olive green duck, heavily bound and reinforced, repellent to fire or water. Inside 3 large snap fastened pockets heavy webbed straps, hand and shoulder handles, size opened 22" x 54" closed 22" rolled. Useful to Hunters, Boy Scouts, Hikers and for all traveling use. A $7.50 value, special $2.25 postpaid. Forward money order. No. C.O.D. shipments. Public Sport Shops, Dept. R75, 13 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

FLY FISHERMEN KEEP FLIES HANDY. Dwich-Pic Plastic Fly, box $2.95. Gabriel Pacciarelli, 307 Arthur Street, Utica, N. Y.

PISTOL SHOOTERS OR RELOADERS, ATTENtion! Components for sale, bullets, primers, cases, powder or reloads. Write your wants. Frank Svec, 149 Oakdene Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey.

REMINGTON SPORTSMAN 12 GA. AUTO. WITH Cutts Comp., 4 tubes. Fired one box of shells. As new $125.00. Fr. Wilh. Heym drilling gun, 16x16x8x57, beautifully engraved in semi-relief. Circassian walnut stock, a really handsome gun, excellent $275.00. Geo. Sherwood, 405½ Courtland, Dowagiac, Michigan.

U. S. MILITARY FIREARMS, 1776-1946. Basic book for collectors, illustrated by 88 full page plates. Price $6.00. James Hicks, 428 Rich, Mount Vernon, N. Y. 5-47

LIST #11, 15¢. DESCRIBING OVER 100 FINE antique arms for sale. Glode M. Requa, Box 43, Monsey, N. Y. 2-47

.45 COLT S. A. PARTS; USED; GOOD SERVICEable order: trigger $1.00; hand with spring $1.50; ejector head $1.00; hammer $2.50; trigger guard $2.50; screws 25¢ each. .45 ACP barrels, good $2.25. .38 ACP magazines $2.25. 20 shot magazines for 30-06 Springfield $6.00. .22 (short) supplemental chambers, M1903 Springfield $1.25 each, 6 for $6.26. Antique pistol capper $7.50. B. K. Wingate, 470 Parkway, Trenton, N. J. 3-47

SMITH FIELD GRADE DOUBLE 12 GA. S.S.T., auto ejectors, excellent, $85.00. H. Wood, Rt. #1, South Charleston, Ohio.

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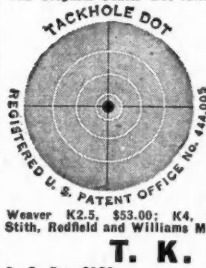

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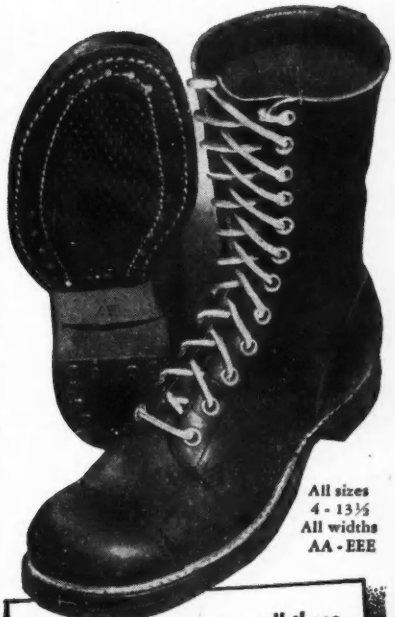

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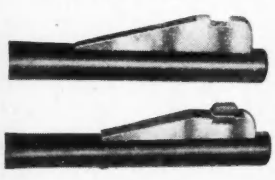

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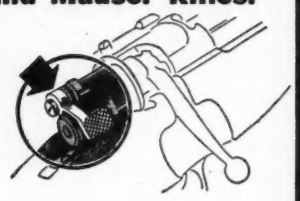

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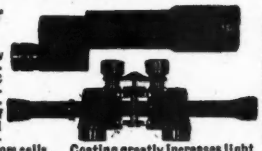

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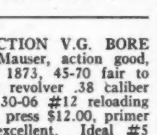

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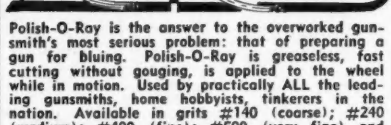

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NEW WINCHESTER 70-.300 H&H MAGNUM fired 6 times, Weaver K4 U top mounts with 5½ boxes 180 grain Silver Tips, $250.00. 45-.25-20 single shot cartridges, $2.00. Winchester hi-side 45-70 #3 octagon barrel, very good, $40.00. Savage 99-.250-3000 Stith mounted 330—4 boxes O.P.E. 100 grain cartridges $100.00. Warren H. Berkner, Cave Junction, Oregon.

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LOVELL MAXIMUM ON WINCHESTER HS action DS triggers, 26" HB by Lovell, rechambered by Gebby for Lovell, maximum, excellent in and out, custom stock with cheekrest, 6X Unertl 1" scope, coated, optically perfect, outside near perfect, 1000 Winchester 116 primers, about 50 cases, about 300 balls, 1 case reforming die $140.00. One set Lovell Maximum dies for Jordon press $11.00. One Argus Super grade spotting scope with Freeland stand, like new, $75.00. New Norman Ford "Texan" scopes $43.50. Write for details. George M. Fleisher, Box 41, Millerstown, Penna.

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For Muzzle Loaders. FFg, US Army-Western. IMPROVED. Very Best. Drum, 25 lbs., $9.50, FOB, by freight. Miller Bedford, New London, Ohio. Good Wholesale prices to dealers.

WINCHESTER 21 12 GA. SINGLE SELECTIVE Beavertail deluxe skeet and extra barrels F&M 28"-26" perfect $235.00. Winchester 21 12 ga. skeet double new, $195.00. Winchester 21 12 ga. double 28" F&M plain ejector, very good, $110.00. New Winchester 42., .410 ga. mod. $85.00. New Winchester 12-28 ga. ribbed mod. Beavertail, 6 boxes of shells, $135.00. Remington new model 11 automatic 12 ga. 28" barrel, full, $110.00.- New Remington 121-22 caliber, $47.00. Wanted—Winchester model 12 trapgun, Browning O&U trap gun, Remington 81-32 caliber auto. rifle. R. A. Larson, Wells, Minnesota.

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.22-250 ENFIELD 26" HB BY LOVELL, CLARK speed action, custom stock QDS, sling K.4, Edwards 1⅜" eight power attachment, 1" Lee Dot, King-Pike, 190 cases, 500 Sisk-Express, 1000 primers, full-length and neck S-X dies, perfect $300.00. No COD. K. W. Haworth, 805 Sixth, Eureka, California.

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.257 MODEL 70 WINCHESTER STITH MOUNTS, Weaver scope post, Tilden safety Whelen sling, perfect $175.00. Member. Reuben Espeseth, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin.

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FOR WOODSMAN & HI-STANDARD—Fits over button on side of magazine—on and off instantly—no more slipping—no more sore thumbs—specify pistol—send 25¢ (coin).

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ARGUS SUPER SPOT, 20X, coated..	74.50	30.06 180 gr., S.P., Ammo, box, $2.65; per 100	13.25
Mossberg Spot Scope, 20X	22.50	30 Rem. S.P., Ammo, box, $3.75; per 100	8.75
Weaver K2.5, coated	45.00	35 Rem. M.C. 220 gr., Ammo, box, $2.00; per 100	9.50
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Redfield Jr. Mts.	10.75 to 14.75	32 Cal. R.F. Ammo., long, per 100	2.20
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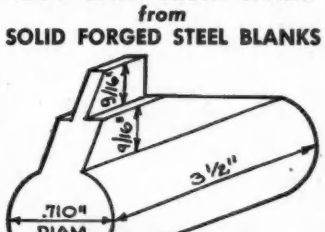

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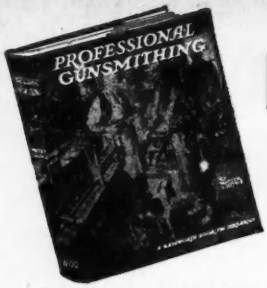

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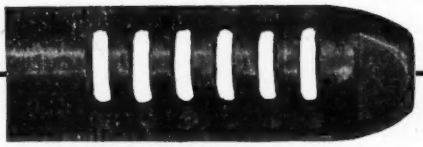

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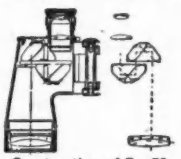

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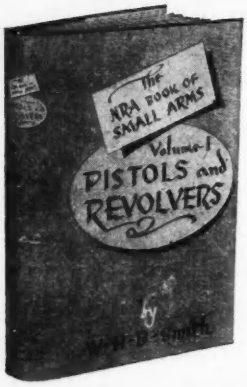

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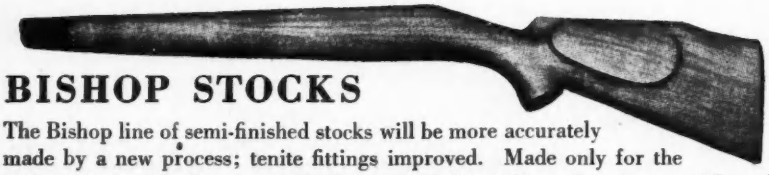

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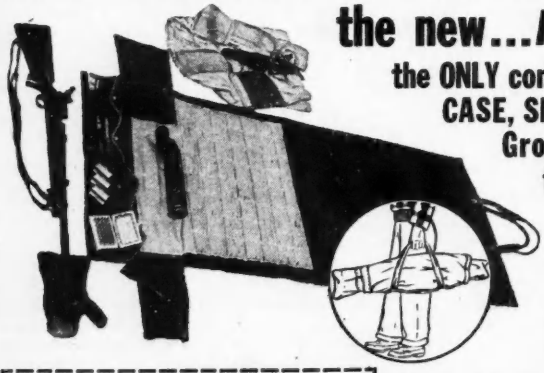

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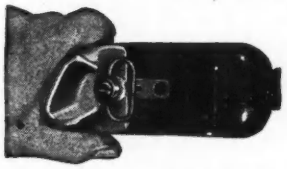

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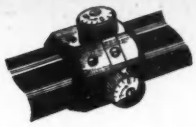

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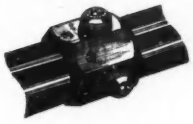

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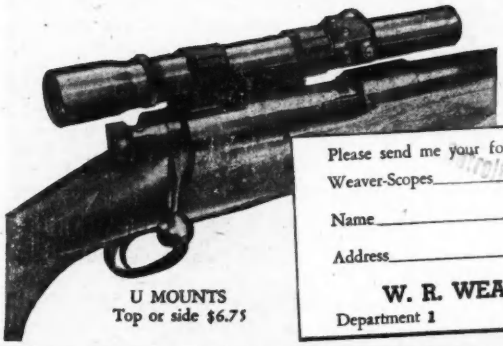

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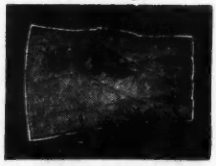

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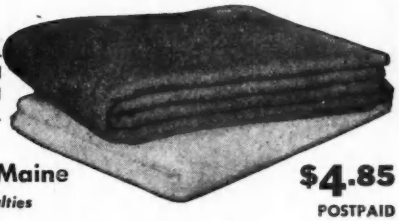

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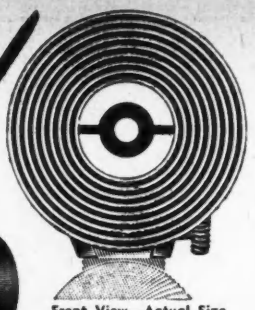

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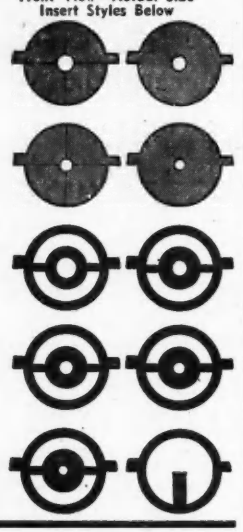

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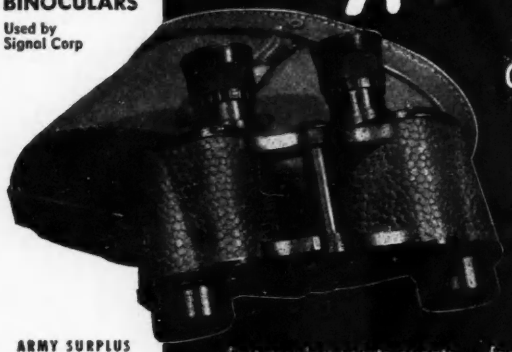

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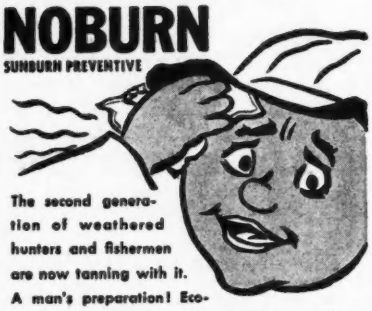

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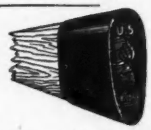

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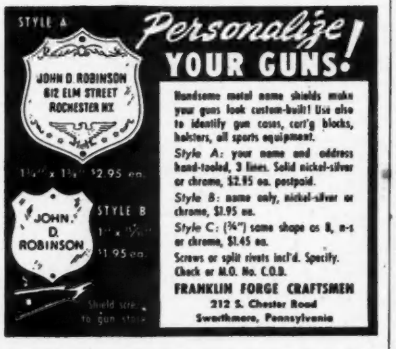

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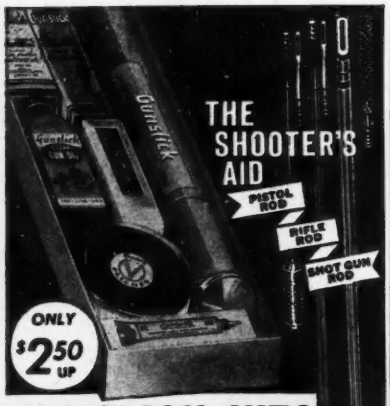

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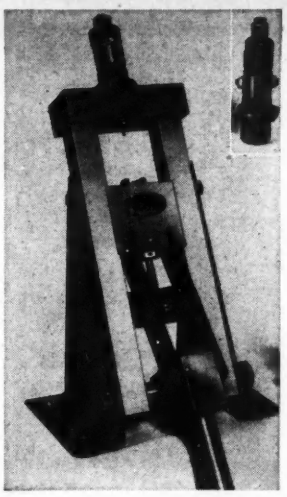

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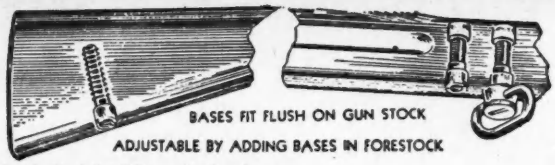

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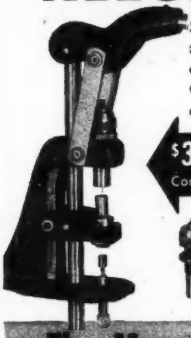

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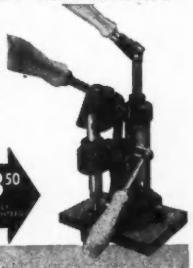

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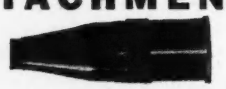

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FINE ORIGINAL KENTUCKY RIFLES, KENtucky pistols, early American engraved powder horns, rare arms books and literature. Herman P. Dean, P. O. Box 1240, Huntington, West Virginia. 5-47

.41 REMINGTON, COLT DERRINGERS, ALSO other Derringer pistols, freaks, oddities. Robert Abels, 860 Lexington Ave., New York 21. 1-48

OLD, OBSOLETE OR ANTIQUE PISTOLS AND revolvers in working condition. H. A. Brand, 1008 Ingalls Bldg., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. 4-47

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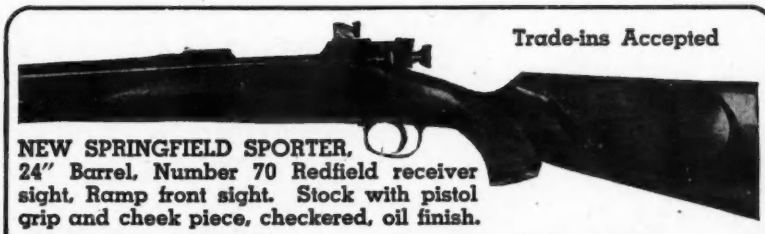

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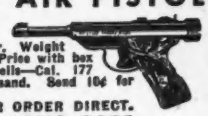

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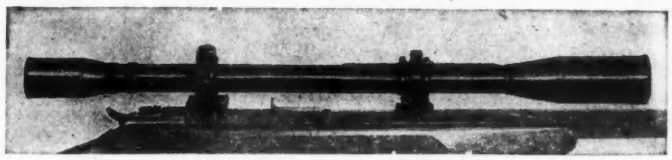

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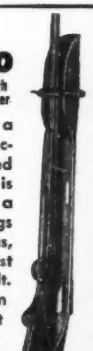

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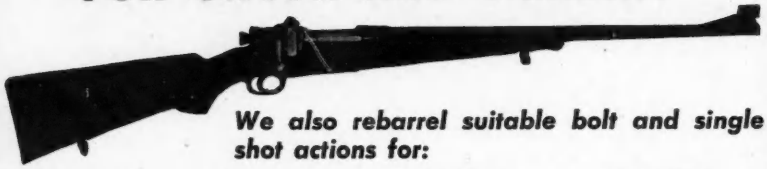

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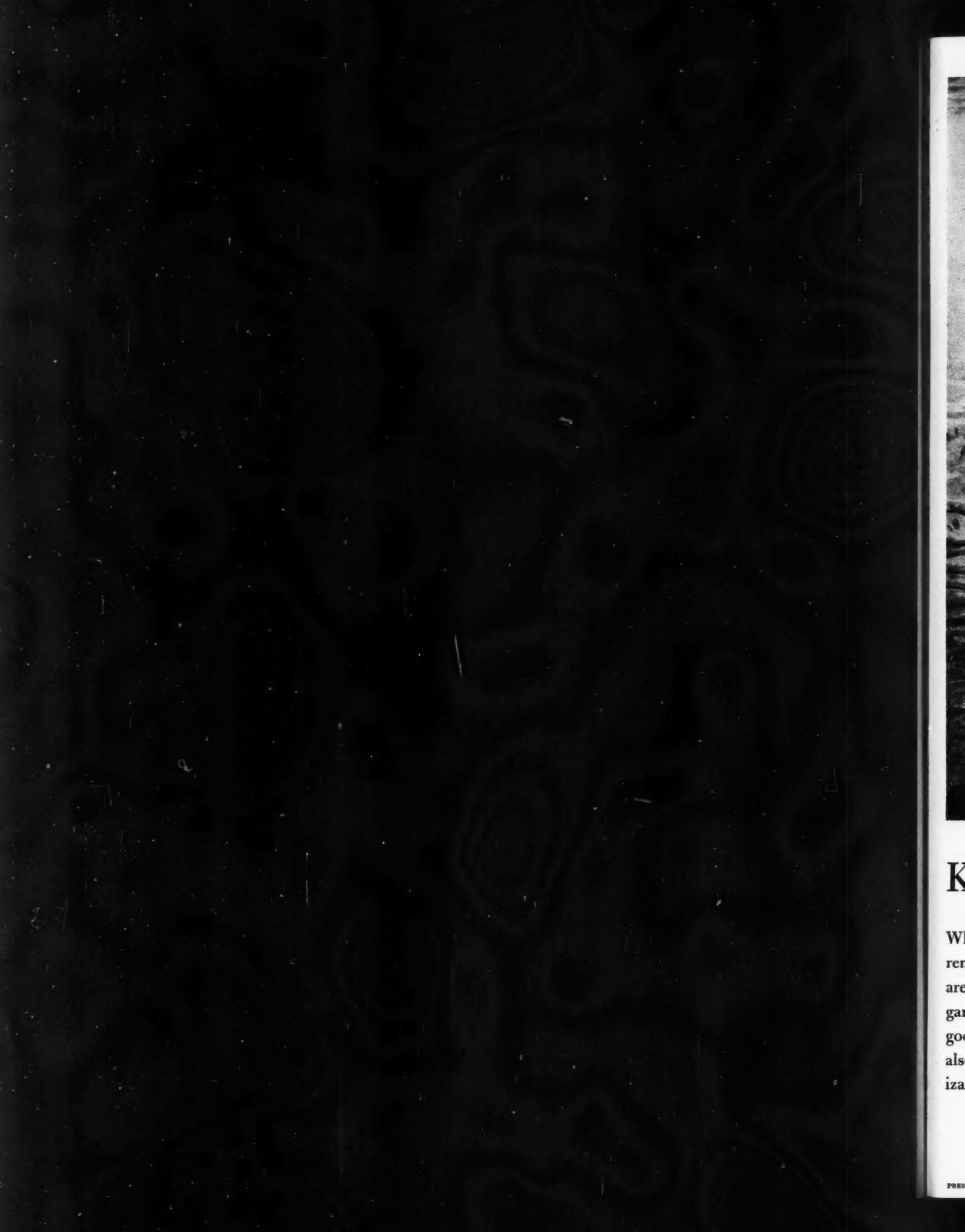

MALLARDS by Lynn Bogue Hunt—*from the Du Pont Museum, Wilmington, Delaware.*

Keep This Under Your Shooting Cap...

When you see a flock of mallards winging southward, remember—game is scarce in many localities. Yet there are more shooters than ever before. Thus tomorrow's game may be even scarcer. To assure yourself and others good hunting in the future, limit your bag today. Help also by joining and supporting local and national organizations for game restoration and conservation.

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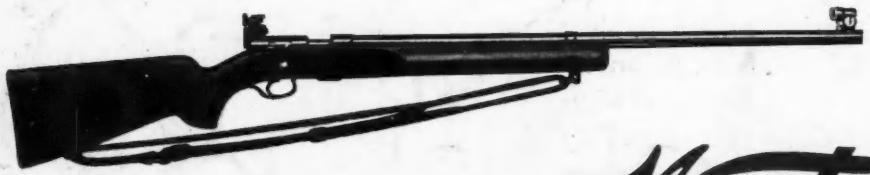
Bulls-eyes! What a thrill for a lad that's learning, and you, as his teacher, share his pleasure, too.

There's grand companionship in teaching your boy . . . or any boy . . . to shoot a rifle. To help him make practice perfect, pass along all your knowledge and experience. Since equipment is important, too, start him right—with a Winchester Model 75 rifle and Western Xpert cartridges. Western Cartridge Company, East Alton, Illinois, Division of Olin Industries, Inc.

Inexpensive, accurate and dependable Xpert 22 cartridges are "tops" with shooters for all-around shooting. For the best in match ammunition, shoot only Western Super Match Mark II.



The Winchester Model 75 rifle is a man's size 22 target rifle. Similar in design to the world famous Model 52, it has many of the features of this outstanding Match rifle. Yet, its price puts it within reach of the majority of shooters. Sights and sling strap are standard equipment.

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